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Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Changes Will Not 'Quell' Intifadah

JN2703104590 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1948 GMT 15 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, if we are to once again comment on the collapse of the Israeli coalition government, we would reassert that there is a theatrical aspect to the Israeli disagreement and that this disagreement might only reach this or that level. Of course, we never will believe the collapse of the coalition government has greatly harmed the peace process. This is so because the disagreement between Shamir and Peres revolves around the Cairo dialogue and not the international conference. More precisely, the disagreement revolved around the Israeli conditions themselves. Shamir wants these conditions to be extremely harsh and very explicit in rejecting any formula for dealing with the PLO, while Peres calls for softening these conditions by making them somewhat obscure, but at the same time also conveying the message that Israel rejects dealings with the PLO. Whichever the case and whatever the reasons for the collapse of the enemy's coalition government, what concerns us now is not this collapse but the future government, which we believe will be a Likud government, whether a transitional government or a restricted one, not to mention it could also be a government formed by the Labor Party following premature elections. This government once again will try to quell and liquidate the intifadah before it starts speaking with an explicitly political language on the peace settlement, irrespective of the nature of such a settlement.

The coalition government from the very first moment was a paralyzed government, as defined by brother Faysal al-Husayni in commenting on the collapse of the government, and one that could not make any decisive decision on the political issue.

We would like to reassert here that what interests us from all this is that if it seeks to quell the intifadah to speak afterward of a settlement under its own conditions, any future government will be doing nothing more than repeating the same failure, and sensing the same frustration and loss.

We declare that any future government will try to do this. It will realize at the end, however, that the intifadah will never be daunted and that this government, or any other Israeli government, will be forced to deal with the political issue according to Palestinian conditions. This means it will find no one else other than the PLO with which it can hold a dialogue and conduct negotiations on the peace process.

This is not the only thing on which we wager. This is our firm conviction. Yes, it is our firm conviction, a deep-rooted belief baptized by the bountiful offering of the unique Palestinian will. Any government the enemy forms will be incapable of quelling the intifadah and smothering its incandescent fire. The enemy must realize this and must also realize what is more important—that its domestic disagreements will not make us fall victim to its claims that these are disagreements over the peace process and not disagreements over the best means to obliterate our national rights and undermine our plan to liberate the land, repulse the occupation, wrest freedom, and attain independence for our people and our homeland, Palestine. We certainly will come out victorious.

PLO Radio: Intifadah Caused Israeli 'Crisis

JN2703101090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1938 GMT 18 Mar 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, O masses of our heroic Palestinian people; O knights of the gigantic intifadah; O brave Palestinians—men, women, children, old men, and youths: We have no doubt the fierce crisis the Israeli institution is currently suffering from is one of the intifadah's most important effects on this institution. If we want to use another expression, we can objectively say this crisis is one of the achievements of the gigantic intifadah which confirms the usefulness of this creative militant action, and most importantly the inevitability of the victory of this militant action. We do not say all this from the point of view that had there been no intifadah, there would have been no such crisis, although this is completely correct. We say this from the point of view that the escalation and continuation of the intifadah—the continuation of its generous sacrifices and unique confrontations, the failure of the occupiers' attempts to contain it, and the aggravation of this failure—have led to the aggravation of the Israeli crises. Not only this, but also the intifadah's political plan has faced the enemy with great challenges and decisive questions. The enemy could not give answers to these questions. This made its Cabinet crisis a foregone conclusion.

At any rate, if any of this is of significance, it is that it indisputably explains how great and firm the intifadah is. This firmness and greatness spring from our people's unity, cohesion, and their comprehensive national struggle in all fields of confrontation, steadfastness, challenge, and clashes. The firm national unity, our people's rallying around the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI], and their comprehensive response to its calls and militant programs have given and is giving all this ability to influence the enemy and all its various institutions. In fact, this has strengthened the intifadah's blows to the occupation and affected the enemy's balance and unity. The enemy no longer has such a balance, be it regarding political issues or any other issues.

Confusion, chaos, and hysteria are the most important characteristics of the enemy's behavior in its various policies. We have no doubt at all that this miserable situation experienced by enemy authorities marks the beginning of their overall collapse and big defeat. In light

of this, let us escalate our painful blows to the enemy, and let us further aggravate its crises through further unity, cohesion, and full adherence to the United National Leadership of the Intifadah calls and its militant programs in confronting the occupation. March ahead, and we will continue together until great victory.

Israeli 'Terrorism' Continues Despite Crisis

JN2703115090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1858 GMT 25 Mar 90

["Talk of the Intifadah": "In Light of the Cabinet Crisis, the Zionist Enemy Pursues Terrorism and Settlements"]

[Text] To the masses of our heroic people in the raging homeland, to our gigantic generations and revolutionary youths, to the heroes of our strike forces and groups, to the valiant youth committees, and to the knights of clashes and the heroes of confrontations throughout the dear homeland, from the villages of 'Abasan, Khuza'ah, Bani Suhaylah in the southern part of the valiant Gaza Strip to the city of Nabulus, the village of 'Anabta, and the town of Qalqilya in the northern part of the brave and heroic West Bank, the struggle continues within our heroic blessed intifadah, confrontations and clashes are escalating, and the enemy is throwing all its weight, resources, and terrorist and criminal means into the battlefield.

This cursed, rancorous enemy uses helicopters in confrontations, fires intensively on our people, continues to demolish and destroy houses, and intensifies search operations at the entrances of villages, cities, and camps to arrest our youth. This is in addition to the rest of the series of terrorism and crime that also includes the closure of schools, the imposition of continuous sieges, the continuation of torture inside prisons, and the fomenting of sedition, the creation of confusion, and the fabrication of lies. This terrorist escalation by the cursed and rancorous enemy continues under the cover of the current fierce cabinet crisis between the Labor and Likud parties, which are as one on their unlimited hostility to our people, on placing obstacles before the peace march, on intensifying the rate of settling the new Zionist immigrants on our land, on refusing to deal with the PLO, and on insisting on detaching Jerusalem from the rest of our occupied land.

Despite the extensive Zionist press talk about differences between the Labor Party and what it describes as those who are wrapped in black in the other Zionist parties, blocs, and groups—we say despite the extensive talk about these differences, the occupation, including all its institutions and forces, is continuing its acts of terrorism against our people, imagining that under the umbrella of these alleged differences, it can succeed in exploiting time to settle more new Zionist immigrants who come from the USSR and Eastern Europe, and in quelling the heroic blessed Palestinian intifadah. In fact, the terroristic measures have begun to further escalate in anticipation of Land Day at the end of this month. While the PLO reiterates its call for the need to hold an Arab summit to discuss the issue of Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine, this stage requires that our masses escalate their confrontation of the occupation, and inflict the maximum possible level of human, moral, economic, security, and political losses. Confrontation also requires the escalation of the programs of boycotting work, goods, taxes, customs, and occupation laws and regulations, and the continued building of the pillars of national independence and entrenching the people's power through the intensified work of the popular and specialized committees to take care of all segments of our people. This is in addition to escalating armed struggle to make the enemy suffer and to inflict losses on the enemy through the strong and distinguished operations and strikes that inflame this enemy's wounds and prove to it that its continued presence in our land is mere illusion.

These days, in which we approach the blessed Ramadan, the month of Koran, jihad, patience, and perseverance, we greet the souls of our hero martyrs, the wounded, and the detainees inside the prisons of the Zionist enemy. We also greet all our people, gigantic generations, and the knights of our righteous male and female veiled youth. We clasp their hands and tell them that every time the enemy escalates its terrorism, it is new proof of the stifling impasse this cursed and rancorous enemy is suffering. Thanks to their heroism, great sacrifices, and comprehensive creativity, our heroic blessed intifadah is entrenching its roots deep in the ground, and is turning into a new comprehensive life, a constant course of struggle, and a bright fact that will never vanish. Greetings to you, O our steadfast heroic people. It is a revolution until victory.

Israeli Attempt To Asssassinate 'Arafat 'Foiled'

LD2703173190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] In addition to their continuous aggression against the population of the occupied territories, the Zionist authorities continue their conspiracies against Palestinians abroad.

Palestinian sources in Tunisia announced today an attempt to assassinate a number of PLO officials in order to defeat Palestinian initiatives at pushing forward the Middle East peace process has been foiled.

The same sources pointed out that the conspiracy was planned by Yitzhaq Shamir and Ari'el Sharon before the collapse of the government coalition which was led by the Likud. The sources added the conspiracy was aimed against Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian state; Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department; Salah Khalaf, Faysal al-Husayni, and others.

Views of Current, Former U.S. Officials Compared

JN2703094490 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1948 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, in a television interview on CNN last night, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, as you heard a few moments ago in our main newscast, described Israeli violations of the Palestinian citizen's human rights in the occupied territories as a terrible thing. He said the reality of what is taking place in the occupied territories has shocked him, and that this reality also will shock anyone who becomes familiar with the details of this situation. He added that Israel's violation of the Palestinian citizen's human rights in the occupied territories has not come as a reaction to the intifadah [words indistinct] over 22 years. In his interview, Mr. Carter declared that Israel's human rights violations cover all walks of life.

At first glance, one seems unable to understand the views taken by U.S. Administration heads and ranking officials when they leave office. When no longer in responsible positions, these gentlemen become more explicit and feel more favorably toward the Palestinian people, as is evident in Mr. Carter's interview. In other words, they start to condemn Israel's arbitrary policies against the Palestinian people. Although these Israeli policies have been consistent, have not changed, and continue to be more ferocious and repressive, and to represent institutionalized and systematic terrorism, U.S. Administration officials fail to discover the reality of these policies when they are in their official posts. Reality dawns and facts are revealed when they leave the White House and become ordinary citizens. Is this completely true, and is this really true?

Out of respect for logic, objectivity, and the intellect, we cannot accept that the discovery of such facts by the U.S. Administration, which follows a pragmatic policy, can take place this suddenly, as if it were a revelation coming down upon it. Also, we cannot understand and cannot accept what this state of affairs seems to imply: that the U.S. Administration is shackled by one-dimensional political reporting on the state of affairs in the Middle East, and that based on this reporting, the U.S. Administration no longer is capable of fathoming the ugly facts of Israel's bloody and repressive policy toward the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This is completely illogical. No one can believe the U.S. Administration, which has worldwide concerns, as it itself says, deals with hot international issues based on incomplete or one-dimensional political reporting. The pragmatic American approach to politics and other fields does not suffer such incomplete reports. Therefore, what is the reason?

Before we reply, we must state that whatever the reason, it cannot justify and can never justify this acute contradiction between the official American stand and the unofficial one, which most of the time is adopted by one named individual, such as Mr. Jimmy Carter voiced in his CNN interview. Mr. Carter would not have said all he did about the reality of the ugly Israeli policy had he still been the President of the United States. The reason for this, and this is our reply to the question that we posed a few moments ago, lies in the nature of U.S. policy itself and in its persistent efforts to depict its proposals and stands on various international issues, particularly the Middle East cause, as being somewhat credible and balanced.

Despite all this, the views expressed by senior U.S. Administration officials when no longer in their official posts opens broader vistas before international and U.S. public opinion, allowing a better understanding of the reality of the tribulations of our people as a result of the Israeli occupation.

Our people cannot but view these stands with respect but a respect laden with bitterness. What if these stands, which are so explicit and objectively in favor of the Palestinian citizen's rights had been those of the U.S. Administration itself and not of former presidents?

In any case, Mr. Jimmy Carter, the former President of the United States, says the reality of Israel's abominable violation of Palestinian citizens' rights in the occupied territories which shocked him also will shock all those who become familiar with the details of these violations. Will Mr. Carter brief U.S. Administration officials on the details of this reality, its dimensions and ugly objectives, or will he remain content with being shocked and leave for a remote place to exercise some kind of penance through prayer or other means in search for peace of mind? This is the question we ask Mr. Carter.

PLO's Qaddumi Welcomes U.S.-Palestinian Talks

LD2703114890 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 24 Mar 90 txt

[Text] 'Abu al-Lutf [Farug Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has said former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy's talks with the Palestinian leadership over the past two days in Tunis were to discuss a peaceful settlement and possible efforts to reach a solution to the Middle East crisis.

In a statement to AL-BAYAN today, brother Abu al-Lutf said the dialogue between the Palestinian leadership and Richard Murphy dealt with the U.S. peace [word indistinct]. The Palestinian side stressed the need for the five permanent UN Security Council member countries to guarantee a just and comprehensive settlement. Brother Abu al-Lutf added the U.S. position regarding the elections was [words indistinct] settlement and has changed. He described the delegation's visit to Tunisia and its meeting with the Palestinian leadership as a commendable initiative by the U.S. side. He said: Let this be the beginning of a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue at official level, and not a personal one by experts or former officials of the U.S. Administration. He said the Palestinian leadership has noticed recently [word indistinct] changes in U.S. policy, particularly regarding the issues of Arab Jerusalem and Jewish settlement. (?However), that needs to be concretized in practice.

PLO Central Council Session Postponed

LD2703133690 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] A senior Palestinian official has said the Palestinian leadership has postponed the meeting of the PLO Central Council. He said the meeting of the Central Council, scheduled for 3 April in Baghdad, has been postponed until the final picture of the Israeli Cabinet and the special contacts concerning the peace process in the region become clear. There recently has been increased efforts by Egypt, the United States, and the PLO in this context.

Concerning the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, the Palestinian official said today the United States has begun to exert pressure on the Israeli leadership regarding the settling of Soviet Jews and has increased its talk of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The official regarded these steps as positive aspects of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

Regarding Syrian-Palestinian relations, the official said Syria has shown, in recent meetings between Palestinian and Syrian officials, concern for the independence of the Palestinian view, as far as a solution of the Palestinian issue is concerned, on condition that such a solution does not affect a general settlement in the Middle East region.

Intifadah Leadership Issues Call No. 54

JN2703195090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1752 GMT 27 Mar 90

["Text" of Call No. 54, issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah—date not given]

[Text] Call, call, call, no voice rises above the voice of the intifadah, no voice rises above the voice of the people of Palestine, the people of the PLO, call issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI], Call No. 54, Call of Martyrs.

O masses of our great people, O heroes of stones and slingshots, O heroes of molotov cocktails: With the beginning of the blessed month of Ramadan, our people's gigantic intifadah approaches its 29th month with greater firmness, strength, vigor, and determination to sweep away the occupation and establish our independent Palestinian state under the leadership of the PLO, our people's sole legitimate representative and the leader of their struggle.

O masses of the independent state, the collapse of terrorist Shamir's government comes as a stark indicator of the extent of the stifling political crisis Israel and the Israeli community are undergoing under the pressure of our people's continuing and escalating intifadah and under pressure of the Palestinian peace offensive, which placed the Israeli rulers in stifling international isolation. Shamir's government has blocked all the roads leading to peace and insisted on continuing its savage sanguinary repression of the intifadah masses, escalating the policy of aggression, and both establishing and intensifying settlements at the expense of our Palestinian people and all the Arab peoples.

The forces of peace and democracy in Israel are required to intensify their efforts to put an end to this repressive, hostile, and expansionist policy, and to open the road of peace by responding to our Palestinian people's national rights and recognizing the PLO as our sole legitimate representative. The UNLI, while warning of the dangers the Israeli policy of aggression is posing to the situation in the region, calls on the international community to intensify pressure on Israel by all means to end this hostile policy and make it comply with the international will to conduct the international conference for the sake of reaching a comprehensive and balanced solution that guarantees our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state.

The UNLI, while stressing that differences between the Labor and Likud Parties, which led to the fall of the national unity government—a government which was originally formed to counter our people's valiant intifadah and the large-scale international support for the Palestinian peace initiative and our national legitimate rights as brought about by an intifadah armed with the Palestinian peace offensive—are only differences in tactics over how to disavow these rights. The essence of these two parties' strategy is still that of the three no's: No to negotiations with the PLO, no to the independent Palestinian state, and no to the international conference. The UNLI reaffirms that the real criterion on the seriousness of the Israeli governments's search for peace lies in their recognition of our people's inalienable national and legitimate rights and their recognition of the PLO, our sole legitimate representative.

O brave masses of our people, the Palestinian peace initiative is still the only viable basis for a just, comprehensive, lasting, and balanced peace in the region. The coalition government's collapse was a new blow to the American policy, which is hostile to our people's rights and which is fully biased toward Israel. Our people's masses, which foiled Camp David [accords] and all the liquidatory schemes which ignored our people's rights, are again proving that they can today, more than any time before, bury any plan trying to sidestep or ignore these rights as represented in repatriation, self-determination, and establishment of the independent state whose capital is holy Jerusalem.

O masses of our heroic people: While the UNLI congratulates the Islamic world and the masses of our people on the coming of the holy month of Ramadan, it calls on our people to regulate consumption; spread feelings of love and forgiveness; help the poor, needy, and afflicted families; and entrench the bonds of family togetherness and solidarity. The UNLI calls on the masses of our people to benefit from the atmosphere of this blessed month to close ranks, build up resources, and eliminate any disputes.

In this field, we renew our demands from the brothers in the Hamas movement to deal seriously and responsibly with the national dialogue which the UNLI has begun with them on joining the UNLI, since this would be beneficial and good for the masses of the intifadah.

The UNLI also announces that the month of Ramadan is a month of repentance for the agents, during which they will be given a new chance to stop cooperating with the Zionist intelligence organs.

O our giant masses; while congratulating the Namibian people, who have realized their independence and lit another torch down the path of various peoples' achievements in liberty, and congratulating the brothers in the Arab Liberation Front on the occasion of their anniversary on 6 April, and clasping their hands together down the same road until Palestine's banner of liberty and independence is raised, the UNLI affirms the following:

Land Day on 30 March: On the fourth anniversary of the eternal Land Day and to confront the cancerous spread of the settlement policy followed by the Israeli Government, the UNLI announces that the period between 27 March and 3 April is a distinguished struggle week for confrontation in the various areas to commemorate the martyrs and Land Day. During this week, one should go out to the land to reclaim and reforest it, especially land threatened with confiscation. Let us make Land Day a distinguished day for confrontation in which our people and the heroes of our strike forces record heroic feats to teach the settlers a new lesson from the intifadah.

The popular committees:

The UNLI calls on the masses of our people, the makers of the popular 20th century intifadah, to continue forming, building, and developing the popular committees and their specialized committees in every camp, village, district, and city so that these committees will constitute the alternative popular authority for the occupation's collapsing organs and departments. The continued creation and buildup of these committees opens the door wide to the creative masses' initiatives to develop the intifadah, solve their problems and our masses' burdens, and fill the needs created by the intifadah. Let Bayt Sahur be an example to be followed in the rest of the areas.

The day for national production, 4 April: The UNLI calls on the factories, companies, and workshops to increase their production, improve quality, and fix prices. They also call on national capital-owners to increase investment in national production projects. The UNLI calls on our strike forces on this day to continue chasing and restricting the distributors of Israeli products and goods which have a national alternative. The UNLI stresses the need for our farmers to increase their agricultural products and expand cultivated areas. It also calls on local companies and markets to absorb and market this produce. The UNLI affirms the importance of establishing agricultural committees in all regions.

Dayr Yasin, Verdun, Al-Qastal: The UNLI declares that the days 6 to 10 April shall be days of escalation and confrontations. During that period, massive demonstrations will be staged in all areas to commemorate the anniversary of the martyrs of the Dayr Yasin massacre, the martyrdom of the three leaders—Kamal 'Adwan, Kamal Nasir, and Abu-Yusuf al-Najjar—in the Verdun operation in Beirut, as well as the martyrdom of the leader of holy jihad 'Abd- al-Qadir al-Husayni in the al-Qastal battle on 8 April 1948. During that period, black banners will be raised over house rooftops and electricity and telephone poles.

Abu-Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir] martyrdom anniversary, 16 April: On the second anniversary of the martyrdom of the symbol Palestinian leader, the UNLI urges the masses and strike forces to organize popular demonstrations during which Palestinian flags and black banners will be hoisted. Clashes and confrontations will be waged everywhere on this day.

Prisoner's Day, 17 April: The UNLI declares 17 to 20 April as days for solidarity with our detainees in the prisons of the Nazi occupation in order to confront the policy of arbitrary isolation and the classification of strugglers based on the sentences they receive. This policy is within the prison administrations' plan to liquidate our imprisoned movement. The UNLI stressese the need for unity among our incarcerated strugglers in harmony with the message addresssed by the UNLI to the prisons and detention camps, as this unity constitutes an infallible guarantee to abort this policy. We urge the masses of our people to carry out militant activities to show solidarity with our prisoners, to stage sit-ins at the Red Cross headquarters, and to organize a large-scale world campaign to show solidarity with the struggle led by our detainees behind the bars of the occupation prisons in pursuance of a decent life. On this occasion, our popular committees and women's organizations are called upon to organize commemorative visits to the relatives of those detainees.

Schools, universities, and higher education institutes: The UNLI views with concern the discontinuation of classes in our schools. While the occupation directly closes some of these schools, it tries to obstruct classes in other scools from within and by involving suspects who try to obstruct school hours. To confront this policy of stultification, the unified student committees in schools are urged to firmly stand against and confront any attempt to obstruct these classes which, as decided by the UNLI, shall continue until 1300. Masked persons should keep away from schools and should not enter them. At the same time, the new working hours for shops makes it possible for our students to take part in the intifadah activities after 1300 without interfering with their classes.

General Strike Days: On the 14th anniversary of the immortal Land Day, 30 March, the UNLI declares that all the lands of our occupied states on that day are liberated territories over which flags will be hoisted and the earth will

be set ablaze under the feet of the Zionist occupiers. On 9 April, the beginning of the 29th month of the intifadah, a general strike will be observed to commemorate the anniversary of the Dayr Yasin massacre martyrs and the martyrs of our revolution and to protest the massacres carried out against the masses of our people, the latest being the Nabulus massacre on 23 March during which martyrs fell and others were wounded.

Resolutions and Recommendations:

1. The UNLI warns against dealing with the designs of the civil administration to get us to accept the [travel] permits on condition that the sons of our people remain outside for a long period, because this trend represents an indirect emigration.

2. As the UNLI announces the schedule for opening shops as stated in the previous call, the UNLI would like to explain the following:

a. This change in opening shops came as a result of many reasons regarding promoting the intifadah. This schedule will help our students to abide by their regular class hours until 1300, to participate in the national activities, and to struggle against the occupation forces between 1300 and 1400 hours. This change partially resolves the problems of the restaurant owners, and affirms that the masses of our people under the UNLI are the decisionmakers, and supersede the occupation authority.

b. The vocational sector—trades and workshops—will work from 0700 until 1400.

c. The announcements made by the UNLI in the previous calls regarding the central vegetable and fruit markets are still valid. Loading and unloading are allowed in these markets outside of the national schedule. Bakeries can open all day, including the days of the general strike.

2. The UNLI calls on all restaurant owners to respect the feelings of fasting people and sanctity of the month of Ramadan. It allows vendors of felafel, hummus, and al-ful to sell from 1700 until 1900 hours.

O masses of freedom and independence, O people of the PLO: As the UNLI greets the heroic masses of Bayt Furik, who are bravely continuing their confrontation against the storming campaigns; as it greets our masses in the mountain of fire [Nabulus]—in their confrontation against the Zionists' massacres—and our heroes in the Shu'fat refugee camp, who affirmed through the blood of the heroic martyrs their rejection of the racist designs of Teddy Kollek's municipality aimed at displacing them and replacing them with the new immigrants; and as its greets our masses in heroic Rafah, who restored the brilliance of the intifadah, the UNLI is proud of the heroism of our people in heroic Gaza and its camps, in Khan Yunus, 'Anabta, the Tulkarm refugee camp, 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma', Qabatiyah, 'Attara, Qatanah, and the rest of the cities, villages, and camps in our beloved homeland.

More heroism, more sacrifices, and more militant examples on the road to independence and to sweeping the occupation off the territory of our occupied Palestinian state.

We will inevitably triumph.

Signed: The PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah

Algeria

Bendjedid Holds Talks With SDAR President

LD2503214190 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid has had talks today with Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR]. The talks were attended by Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali and the ambassador of the Saharan Republic to Algeria. Following this meeting, Mohamed Abdelaziz made the following statement to journalists:

[Begin recording] We discussed the subject of relations between the two countries. We also discussed the question of Western Sahara's developments in light of the UN and OAU efforts. Then we discussed relations at the Arab Maghreb level and the prospects for progress in building them, and what are the obstacles which hinder the building of the Arab Maghreb and their solutions, particularly the question of the Western Sahara, or the conflict existing between the Moroccan Kingdom and the SDAR.

We also discussed African developments. It was an opportunity to talk about the south of the continent; the independence of Namibia, the freeing of Mandela, and the developments in the south of the continent. At any rate, there was total mutual understanding and identical viewponts.

The Algerian Republic and the SDAR direct all their efforts toward the settlement of problems fairly, and they direct all their endeavors toward the establishment of peace on a sound basis, particularly in the region of Northwest Africa. And I believe that our efforts as a whole conform with the international will, especially in the light of the developments the world is experiencing at present, namely the settlement of problems by peaceful means and through dialogue.

I believe the UN secretary general underlined a significant point, namely the question of pushing the international peace process forward in order to speed up the settlement of the Saharan problem.

I hope the visit of the UN secretary general will have a positive effect on the two parties to the conflict, leading them to accept a return to direct negotiations and also the acceptance of conditions which will ensure a free referendum of the Saharan people, and in particular the withdrawal of the Moroccan administration, settlers, and army and the take-over of the region by international forces and a temporary administration to ensure a free referendum of the Saharan people. Thank you. [end recording]

Unity, Action Association Calls Opposition Meeting

LD2603221290 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] In a communique, the president of the Popular Association for Unity and Action calls on all the presidents of the opposition parties to hold a meeting which will take place in camera at the El Safir Hotel in Algiers at 1000 tomorrow. On the agenda will be the adoption of a common position with respect to the elections of 12 June. This meeting, says the communique, has become an obligation following, I quote, the silence of the government which has followed the request for a postponement of the elections made by several political parties. [no reference to close of quotation as heard]

Municipal, Provincial Elections Set for 12 June

LD2703225190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The Ministry of Interior today issued the following statement: According to the presidential decree dated 6 March, the electoral body will be summoned on 12 June 1990 to elect the members of the municipal and provincial People's Councils.

For this purpose, the licenses of the candidates should be submitted to the concerned province in the region on Saturday, 22 April 1990 at the latest. The electorates who satisfy the legal conditions and who would like to become candidates should approach the provincial authorities so that they can be informed about the procedures for submitting the candidates listed and taking the publications in order to form a dossier of the candidate.

On the other hand, the decree defines the two dates of the beginning and end of the election campaign from Monday, 4 June, and also the period of the extraordinary revision of the electoral list from Monday, 16 April until Wednesday, 16 May 1990.

Perez de Cuellar on Bendjedid Talks, W. Sahara

LD2703210590 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 March 90

[Excerpt] Chadli Benjedid this morning received Javier Perez de Cuellar, who arrived in Algiers today from the Sahraoui territories, where he yesterday held a series of tete-a-tete talks with the Sahraoui president. Following the discussions this morning with President Chadli Bendjedid, Javier Perez de Cuellar made a statement to the national press, amongst whom was Bariza Berrazak:

[begin Berrazak recording with Perez de Cuellar's voice, in French, in the background]

The United Nations secretary general said: I explained to the head of state the situation in the region as I see it and briefed him on my discussions with the King of Morocco and the Sahraoui president. I consider these talks fruitful. It is impossible to deceive public opinion, but

there are some obstacles which must be surmounted. I found in President Bendjedid every support I need, as was the case with Mauritania in its capacity as observer, and the countries of the region. As you are aware, I will present a report to the members of the UN Security Council on my tour of the region.

Concerning the question of peace in the western desert and the desire of the affected parties for peace, Perez de Cuellar said: I think there is a desire on the part of the Sahraoui president and King Hassan II. I also think that the parties are agreed on the referendum, the referendum on self-determination, and I think that it is possible to believe that the referendum will be honest. We will exert every effort so that the referendum will be honest. This is all that the secretary general of the United Nations, Perez de Cuellar, said. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

New 'Amun-2' Missile System Tested 25 Mar

JN2803091590 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 26 Mar 90 p 4

[By Faruq al-Shadhili and Yasir Rizq]

[Excerpt] The newly developed Egyptian missile system, Amun, was tested yesterday. The new developed system was given the name "Amun-2." It is highly capable of hitting air and land targets and of dealing with more than one target at the same time. This system can also distinguish between two targets and give precedence to hitting the more dangerous of the two. The new system has been developed purely through Egyptian technology and expertise. [passage omitted]

Soviet Envoy Delivers Message to Mubarak

NC2703125690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 27 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev in reply to his message to President Gorbachev. Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev announced this after a meeting with President Mubarak today.

The ambassador said that in their messages the two leaders exchanged views on issues of interest to both countries, foremost of which was the issue of Egyptian-Soviet ties. The two leaders, he added, expressed their utmost satisfaction with the progress of their relations, noting that there is no problem standing in the way of promoting them.

The Soviet ambassador pointed out that President Mubarak's upcoming visit to the Soviet Union will give an impetus to the relations between the countries. He said a new date will be set for the visit, which was postponed due to bothleaders' previous engagements. The two leaders agreed that the visit will take place shortly, he added.

The Soviet ambassador said that a new date for the visit will be announced as soon as the two presidents agree on it.

The ambassador noted that the Soviet president referred in his message to the issue of the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Gorbachev also mentioned bilateral relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union, which will be discussed during Mubarak's visit to Moscow.

Replying to a question on the Soviet role with regard to the Middle East issue, the ambassador said: We have repeatedly announced our stand on this. The first deputy of the Soviet foreign minister said at a press conference on 23 March that Moscow's stand on this issue has not changed. The Soviet Union has not condoned and will not condone the occupation of the Palestinian territories. The Soviet Union has supported and will always support the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

The Soviet ambassador said: We took up this issue before the UN Security Council and emphasized that Israel has no right to settle Jewish citizens in the occupied territories.

Zhuravlev said that efforts are under way through diplomatic channels and the United Nations to resolve this problem.

The ambassador said that the UN Security Council will possibly issue a resolution to set up a specific body to monitor this process and prevent Israel from settling Jews in the occupied territories.

The Soviet ambassador said that the most important element in this issue is the need to bring about a solution of the Middle East problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict. He pointed out that if the Arab-Israeli conflict were settled the problems connected with that conflict, such as the migration of Jews to the occupied territories, would disappear.

The ambassador voiced his country's readiness to support any move leading to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East problem.

In reply to a question on the number of Soviet Jews who have arrived in Israel, the Soviet ambassador said that he has no specific figures, but added that, according to Israeli statistics, 40,000 Soviet Jews have arrived in Israel during the past 10 years. I may say that large numbers have migrated from the Soviet Union during the past 10 years, but the number of migrants going to Israel is relatively small, he said. He noted that he does not have statistics concerning the destination of Soviet Jewish migrants.

The ambassador added: We are about to pass a new law allowing any Soviet citizen who migrates to return to the

Soviet Union. hl

Albanian Minister Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC2703115590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Pali Miska, Albanian vice chairman of the council of ministers and minister of agriculture, at the presidential office this morning. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture, and the Albanian ambassador in Cairo were present.

The Albanian agriculture minister described the meeting as very friendly. He said discussion dealt with the Egyptian and Albanian peoples and governments' efforts to promote friendship and mutual respect between the two countries and to develop political, economic, educational, cultural, and other ties.

Commenting on the agricultural cooperation between Egypt and Albania, he pointed out that he had agreed with Dr. Yusuf Wali to implement a plan in this respect. He added that they will exchange views on the plan during this visit. He noted numerous areas for cooperation exist between the two countries.

Sudanese Defense Official Departs Cairo

NC2603205690 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2026 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Cairo, 26 Mar (MENA)—'Uthman Muhammad Hasan, Sudanese minister of state for defense, left Cairo tonight for home via Jeddah. General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production and commander in chief of the armed forces, and senior military officials, saw the Sudanese official off at the airport.

During the five-day visit, which took place at the invitation of Gen. Abu-Talib, 'Uthman and Egyptian officials discussed ways to bolster ties between the armed forces of both countries.

Islamic Leader Pronounces Death Sentence on Author

NC2603200090 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Islamic circles in Egypt have issued the death sentence against Egyptian writer 'Ala' Hamid, author of the book "Journey in a Human Mind" [rihlatun fi fikri insan] in which he ridicules Judgment Day, one of the pillars of the Muslim religion. In this respect, his eminence Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, the spiritual leader of the Islamic groups in Egypt, has issued a religious ruling that the author 'Ala' Hamid is a backslider, which makes him subject to the death penalty.

The Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH affirmed today that the al-Azhar ulema have issued a statement in which they charged Egyptian author 'Ala' Hamid with infidelity and atheism and called for legal action against him. The publishers of the book have withdrawn all copies from Egyptian book stores.

As a result of the pressure from Islamic circles in Egypt concerning this author, the Egyptian public prosecution last week detained author 'Ala' Hamid and placed him in a secure prison on the pretext of questioning him and possibly bringing him to trial.

The Egyptian papers described "Journey in a Human Mind," the book of the backslider 'Ala' Hamid, as a new "Satanic Verses," and described its author as a second Salman Rushdie.

The Egyptian police have refused to say where the backslider 'Ala' Hamid is being held in order to prevent the Islamic circles from carrying out the death sentence against him.

Bomb Attack on General Hospital Injures Two

JN2703213590 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 26 Mar 90 p 1

[By Muhammad al-Fil in al-Fayyum]

[Text] Unknown terrorists hurled an explosive charge at al-Fayyum General Hospital in the evening of the day before yesterday during a party held for patients by the society of the friends of patients and social services.

The terrorist act resulted in injuring the students Hala al-Sayyid and Firyal al-Hadaq, both members of the society's board.

Security forces moved to the location and the prosecution is investigating the incident.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on 'Revolutionary Program'

LD2703222990 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1917 GMT 27 Mar 90

["Intervention" by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at General People's Congress in Tripoli on 27 March—delivered by live radio link]

[Excerpts] Good evening, and may Ramadan be a blessing to you, God willing.

First, I want to thank the Libyan people who have approved the revolutionary program and the submission I made to the people's congresses. The rising to such a level of awareness comes at a time when the Libyan people should make this stand and respect this theory and this experience, because the whole world has now begun to move toward the Jamahiriyah. Whether they call themselves Jamahiriyah or not, the superpowers are now implementing "The Green Book," one way or another, and the whole world is now deserting capitalism and communism, and is turning to the thesis of the Green Book, the Jamahiriyah thesis. [passage omitted]

Indeed, I thank the great Libyan people for its approval of the revolutionary program, and at the same time I want to stress two important points: First, from now on, myself and my collegues will continue to be involved, but this involvement should not be relied upon because there is no substitute for the people's authority. What this involvement will lead to is the confirmation of the people's authority. We should not think: Mu'ammar has made a move or his colleagues have made a move with him, and ease up. On the contrary, we stress that the burden is on you. We confirm the people's authority, we confirm the leaderships of the people's congresses, and we confirm the responsibility of people's committees to people's congresses.

The second point, what has been agreed by people's congresses but has not been implemented, will now be implemented. In this implementation there will be harshness [qaswah]. We shall raise once again the slogan which was raised years ago and implement it. There will be harshness, but no one will be treated unjustly. This is what will happen: There will be harshness from the point of view of our inciting the popular masses against those in charge of implementing their resolutions but who have become undisciplined, negligent, uninvolved, or who escape their duty. Like someone who was elected by people's congresses at a basic people's congress to represent a certain sector but did not attend sessions of the basic people's congress. He is no longer (?useful to us). He will be made accountable before the people's congress. [words indistinct] the basic people's congress which entrusted him with this responsibility. He will appear before the people's congress and will be asked: Why did you not attend the meeting of the basic people's congress since you were elected to represent one of the production or service sectors? There will be harshness but without injustice.

Now we can say that the revolutionary program, which was pending for a long time, will start to become a reality and will be implemented. Every citizen must understand and interpret the meaning of the revolutionary program and its paragraphs, because every citizen will be affected by this.

On the other hand, in implementing the revolutionary program, the colonialist program will collapse. Therefore, every citizen must also understand and review the colonialist program and its paragraphs. Whoever wants prices to go up, salaries to go up, inflation to rise, unemployment to increase, the cost of living to rise, borrowing from the IMF to start, begging from foreign countries to start, exploitation to begin, dignity, freedom, and everyone on earth to be humiliated, and whoever wants the colonialists to return, should start implementing the colonialist program which takes us away from production and direct us toward consumption.

Consumption costs a lot of money without any benefit. It makes you borrow and spend all that you have. It makes you beg. When you beg, your dignity and freedom end.

Therefore, thank God, we reached a democratic resolution, which confirms what we said on the sixth anniversary of the revolution. The resolution is that the revolutionary change will begin, but it will begin in a democratic way, contrary to what happened in the history of the world, where there was a dictatorial change through a dictatorial vanguard or class or force that imposed the change on the others. But we decided that the change will be a mass change. The revolutionary change will take place in a democratic way. The revolutionary program will be implemented in a democratic way. The change will be implemented by the masses not on their behalf for their benefit. This is something new in the history of revolutions in the world. This is the first time for such a thing to happen. This is difficult. The proof is that it has been pending since the sixth anniversary. Democracy is good, but it needs perseverance. But it preserves the dignity of the citizen and his freedom, and he will feel that he is the one who takes the decision and that he is his own master. He will feel that what has been implemented was decided by him and implemented by him.

At the moment we are taking the masses and implementing the revolutionary program for them. Since the sixth anniversary we have been waiting and we have been saying that the change will be implemented by the masses, and will be implemented in a democratic way and not in a dictatorial way. There are those who have been saying: No, the change should be implemented by a dictatorial way. But we said that dictatorships will fall. Now, after 20 years of saying that, and after 70 years of the establishment of the East European dictatorships [as heard], these dictatorships are falling in spite of the fact that they were implementing a revolutionary program, similar to ours, for the benefit of the masses. But because the implementation was a dictatorial one the masses rejected it. The masses might pay a price. Unemployment, destitution, and poverty will happen in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. However, this is the price of freedom. They want freedom. They do not want a paradise on a bed of thorns.

God willing, the colonialist program will be defeated, and the revolutionary program will be victorious. What I expect is that sufficient money will be available, and the change to production will take place, and there will be plenty of money from petroleum income and from the industries and materials which we will export abroad. The money will be provided from the movement of the Libyans toward production when we start implementing the revolutionary program. Therefore we will have more funds than before by implementing the revolutionary program and by combatting the colonialist consumption program. These are the reasons for the just cruelty. I expect that justice and prosperity will be achieved, but there will be firmness.

May the struggle continue. Thank you.

World Muslims Urged To Break U.S. Ties

LD2703225590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The World People's Islamic Leadership has announced that the decision of the U.S. Congress to agree that the Zionist enemy may use Arab Jerusalem as its capital confirms the continued support of the U.S. Administration for the Zionist terrorists, their alleged state, and enable them to control all Islamic sacred places, including Mecca and Medina.

The statement issued by the World People's Islamic Leadership was as follows:

The Arabs and Muslims were not surprised that the U.S. Congress should agree on a decision that states that the Arab town of Jerusalem should be a capital for the Zionist entity. Over so many years, the U.S. Administration has been accoustomed to ridicule Muslims and their sanctity in blatant defiance, extreme challenge, and a hostile and crusading spirit which is full of hatred.

This decision confirms to Muslims all over the world the determination of the U.S. Administration to continue its support for the Zionist terrorists to establish their alleged state and enable them to control all Islamic sanctities including Mecca and Medina, thus blatantly ignoring all international agreements and charters, and paying no attention to the feelings of thousands of millions of Muslims.

Faced with this serious challenge, humiliating situation, and contempt toward Islamic sacred shrines, Muslims have only one choice: It is the strong confrontation and struggle against the U.S. satan, which is manipulated by the evil of force.

We Muslims, in our institutions, associations, parties, groups, and unions, should go beyond the phase of weeping over the doorstep of the United Nations and waiting for UN Security Council resolutions following each humiliation inflicted on us by the U.S. Administration and its contempt regarding the determination of this nation, and practically confront this Satan and its interests in our countries. We should work for the the annihilation of its presence in our ranks.

O masses of the Islamic nation! We do not need anymore to prove to the leaders of the Islamic nation the crusading hatred harbored by the U.S. Administration toward Islam and Muslims. This contempt is being renewed daily. We do not need anymore to provide evidence of the U.S. role that supports and finances the Zionist presence in Palestine, the land if Islamic sanctities. This continuous role was proven by the United States throughout the decades. Therefore, no Muslim has any excuse for continuing to deal in whatever way with the U.S. Satan, which is contributing toward killing our children, desecrating our sanctities, and ridiculing our nation, which was meant to be the best nation in the world. Any Muslim who continues to establish any relation with the U.S. Administration is a direct partner of this administration in its crusading attack against the sanctities of Islam.

While the World People's Islamic Leadership would like to express these facts before all Muslims, it would like to stress its confrontation against the U.S. contemptuous and crusading plan, expose its dimensions, and call on all Muslims wherever they may be to thwart this plan. May God make victorious those who rely on God; God Almighty is strong and beloved.

'Racist Campaign' Against Iraq Denounced

LD2603180990 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Mar (JANA)—The People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau [PFLICB] has issued a statement on the racist campaign against the sister republic of Iraq. It said: The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [SPLAJ] has noticed with great anxiety the racist campaign against the sister republic of Iraq following the execution of the British zionist spy Farzad Barzoft. The PFLICB denounces this campaign and considers it to be a racist campaign of hatred against the Arabs and the Muslims, and declares the Great SPLAJ's support for sister Iraq in the face of this campaign and considers any measure against Iraq to be directed against the whole Arab nation.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Denies Chadian Allegations

LD2703163190 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1405 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Tripoli, 27 al-Rabi' [March], JANA—The People's Committee for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued a statement on the Chadian Government's claims. It says:

The Chadian Government issued a statement on 26 March 1990 in which it announced that armed attacks have taken place on a number of areas near the Sudanese borders. The statement claimed that these attacks were carried out by the so-called Islamic Legion with the backing of Libya.

The Chadian Government was keen, as it usually is, on inserting the name of Libya in a surprising way claiming the involvement of the Great Jamahiriyah in the battles which took place between the government forces and the forces of the Chadian opposition, and on repeating the accusations the Chadian Government has so often reiterated with or without occasion.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation would like to stress the following:

First: The Great Jamahiriyah has repeatedly declared that it has no connection whatsoever with the conflict raging among the Chadians.

Second: The allegations of the Chadian Government about the existence of a legion backed by the Great Jamahiriyah are false allegations. The Jamahiriyah knows nothing about this imaginary legion except through the Chadian information media.

Third: The Great Jamahiriyah had previously asked the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to set up a committee to visit the place in which the Chadian Government claims the battles have taken place to make sure and ascertain the inaccuracy of the Chadian claims about Libyan involvement in these battles. Libya reaffirms its past request for the formation of African investigation committee for this purpose.

Fourth: The Chadian statements are noticeably released after every serious contact or meeting to solve the dispute, and the latest statement has coincided with the meeting of the special committee in Libreville. Apparently the Government of Chad wants to use this as a pretext to evade the peace agreement signed by the two countries and to foil all efforts exerted toward the implementation of that agreement.

Fifth: The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation affirms that what is going on in Chad is an internal conflict with which the Great Jamahiriyah has no connection, and that the Chadian announcements have become a tradition to cover up the internal problems and difficulties facing the Chadian regime. Such accusations are an attempt to divert the Chadian people away from their real problems and to deny the existence of real Chadian opposition which the Chadian Government has found no means of facing except by the repetition of distortions and accusations against Libya.

Sixth: The Great Jamahiriyah out of its loyalty to the OAU and its adherence to its resolutions has in the main kept silent vis-a-vis numerous Chadian propaganda claims and statements by its officials, as it did not want to follow in the footsteps of the Government of Chad in charging the atmosphere with tension as it realizes that this does not serve the aspirations of Africa.

Sudan

BBC: 20 Arrests Follow Alleged Coup Plot

AB2703205990 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 26 Mar 90

[From "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Reports reaching Egypt say that 20 people have been arrested in Sudan, apparently in connection with some kind of plot.

It is nearly nine months since General 'Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir himself overthrew the civilian government of the Ummah Party leader, Sadiq Siddiq al-Mahdi. On the line to Cairo, Robin White asked Jeffery Phillips what his information is.

[Begin recording] [Phillips] Our understanding is that some 50 people have been arrested, including 21 senior officers or ex-Army officers. These include two former chiefs of staff, one by the name of General (Fadlala Bormanassad), and the other one by the name of General (Mahdi Babunimar). We understand also that a number of political figures have been arrested although we do not have names, except in the case one whose name is Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, who was a former minister of finance and of agriculture, and was the secretary general of the Ummah Party before it was banned after the coup on 30 June. We understand he has been arrested as well.

[White] So those that have been arrested, are they connected in some way with the former President Sadiq al-Mahdi who was the leader of the Ummah Party?

[Phillips] The names that we have suggest thnat they are members or supporters of the Ummah Party. The prime minister, Sadiq al-Mahdi, of course, is under house arrest, and there is no indication of what has happened to him. But certainly 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, who is the secretary general of the Ummah Party, and some of the other names were known to be associated with the Ummah Party so we can assume that the Ummah Party, at least in some sense, was involved.

[White] When did these arrests take place? Do you know?

[Phillips] Well, the incident, the coup attempt, happened on Saturday night-Sunday morning, the 24th and 25th of March; the arrests have been taking place during Saturday and Sunday.

[White] Now, when you say coup attempt, what exactly happened?

[Phillips] Well, this is what we are not we are not quite sure about. The sources that we have here in Cairo say that something happened. We are not quite sure whether a coup attempt actually got under way and that military troops were moved in. But an incident occurred which required intervention by the Army.

[White] Has anything been said at all on Sudanese Radio about this?

[Phillips] We have seen nothing on monitoring, and there has certainly been nothing on the wire services. We have heard nothing at all. I tried to contact Khartoum by telephone, and we were told the line was down.

[White] So there is no confirmation of this coup plot at all yet?

[Phillips] There has been no confirmation at all, no. From Sudanese sources, that is to say, official sources. [end recording]

Government Awaiting Rebel Response to Initiatives

EA2703202190 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] member and chairman of the national dialogue conference has announced that the government is still awaiting a response from the rebel movement to the initiatives of a number of African presidents. He reiterated in press statements that the policy of the government regarding a dialogue for peace was based on clear and strong foundations, namely the resolutions and recommendations of the national dialogue conference on peace.

He revealed that Mr. Herman Cohen, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, had put forward a plan for a cease-fire. He said: We have approved this plan but made some basic and essential observations about it. He explained that Cohen would present the plan to the rebel movement and Sudan was awaiting the movement's reply to it.

Cooperation Talks Held With Libyan Delegation

LD2703110490 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Mar—A meeting was held in Khartoum yesterday evening between Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir and Major-General PSC [Passed Staff College] Tijani Adem Tahir, member of the RCC [Revolutionary Command Council] in brotherly Sudan. Members of the Libya Arab delegation accompanying Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir; Col. Uthman Ahmad Muhammad, member of [Sudanese] RCC and head of the political committee; Col. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the RCC and head of the national dialogue conference; Col. Salah al-Din Karar, member of the RCC and head of the economic committee; and foreign, trade, agriculture, and irrigation ministers took part in the talks. The talks focused on aspects of cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Sudan, and ways of developing and bolstering them in various fields.

Libyan Colonel Meets Al-Bashir

LD2703232590 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Mar JANA—General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council in fraternal Sudan received this morning in Khartoum Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

Al-Bashir, Libyan Official Speak

EA2803114890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] chairman, this morning addressed the massive public rally organized by the popular forces to mark the end of the popular forces' conference for integration between Sudan and the Libyan Jamahiriyah. At the beginning of his address, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir saluted the trustee [amin] of Arab unity, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and the country's guest Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir. His excellency praised the struggle of the Libyan people and their leadership in the Great Jamahiriyah. He said they had taken on themselves Arab concerns and the raising of the banner of unity. They had never ceased calling for Arab unity in spite of all the difficulties and conspiracies which had faced the Arab nation and one of its symbols, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

His excellency stressed that unity was the objective, destiny and hope of the Arab nation, pointing out that the consciousness of the steadfast masses and their wise leadership had broken all shackles. He said: We shall proceed in spite of all the intrigues. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that the Arab nation would not remain at the margin of events, but would become an effective force for the united will of the Arab nation. He said the fleets of the Americans and their (?allies) would not be able to damage our will. He said that the will of the Arab nation would not shrink in the face of the conspiracies.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar saluted the [word indistinct] revolution in occupied Palestine and the struggle of the Afghan people.

Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, member of the historic leadership of the First September Revolution, stressed that the Sudanese-Libyan integration scheme was a great achievement on the way towards Arab unity. He stressed the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Sudan's joint deetermination to destroy the fortresses of imperialism. His excellency said in his address to the massive public rally that the time was ripe for uniting the Arab ranks through universal Arab unity. His excellency described the masses before him as [word indistinct] and had come at the vanguard of other ranks to raise the [word indistinct] towards Arab unity.

Release of Egyptian Journalist Reported

NC2703202290 Cairo MENA in English 2010 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Khartoum, March 27 (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities released today journalist Hamzah al-Hindawi, REUTER's correspondent here, after a five-day detention.

A security official source here said that the journalist was to appear in court for releasing groundless reports, however, the source said, intensive contacts, made by 'Ali Shammu, minister of culture and information, with security organs resulted in releasing the journalist.

Ahmad Rajab, Egypt's consul here, visited the journalist, an Egyptian national and stressed that he was treated well by the Sudanese security authorities during his detention.

Kuwait

Cabinet Condemns Senate Resolution on Jerusalem

JN2703145790 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 26 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Kuwait yesterday condemned as "a severe blow to peace efforts" the resolution by the US Senate recognising a unified Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

"The Kuwaiti Cabinet condemns the raising of this issue by the Senate at this juncture and considers the move a crushing blow to peace efforts and a flagrant defiance of the international will in general and that of Arab and Islamic nations in particular," said the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Rashid.

He made the statement following a regular weekly session of the Cabinet, chaired by His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

The U.S. Senate passed the resolution Thursday by voice vote and it is not binding on the administration.

"Kuwait calls on the United States to abide by the relevant UN resolutions and urges the world community to step up efforts so as to block any step that may thwart the peace process and enhance the sufferings of the Palestinian people," al-Rashid said.

"At the same time, Kuwait lays emphasis on the resolutions of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the Arab League which consider the annexation as null and void," al-Rashid added.

Meanwhile, the Palestine Liberation Organisation said yesterday it was stunned and disappointed by a U.S. Senate vote declaring that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and that it should remain so.

Hakam Bal'awi, who has frequently represented the PLO in talks with US ambassador to Tunisia Robert Pelletreau, said in a statement that the Senate resolution will make the current peace efforts more difficult and that it plays into Israel's efforts to derail the peace process.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Namibia

LD2703125490 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Namibia:

In view of the mutual desire of the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Namibia to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between them, the two countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations between them at the embassy level from Monday, 26 March 1990.

In making this statement, the two states affirm their readiness to create relations built on the principles of the United Nations Charter and mutual respect for sovereignty and equality.

Qatar

Al-Yahya Comments on Senate Resolution, Departs

JN2603090190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Doha, 26 Mar (WAKH)—A Palestinian official has described the U.S. Senate resolution acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel as a very serious resolution and a violation of international law and Palestinian human rights. In a statement to QNA before leaving Doha this morning, 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya, member of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the PLO Educational Department, said an Arab and Islamic summit needs to be called to discuss this serious issue and to adopt a unified Arab and Islamic stand. He noted that the U.S. decision must not pass without the adoption of a unified stand.

The Palestinian official, who concluded a four-day visit to the State of Qatar, praised Qatar's firm support of the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's struggle to liberate the land and establish their independent state on their national soil. He also praised the positive results of the visit which, he added, will intensify cooperation and reinforce relations between the states of Qatar and Palestine in the field of education in general and the open university of Jerusalem in particular.

Yemen Arab Republic

AFP Reports 'Several Thousand' Gather in Aden

NC2703133690 Paris AFP in English 1309 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Aden, March 27 (AFP)—Several thousand people gathered in a South Yemeni provincial capital to denounce recent demonstrations by Islamic fundamentalist students demanding an end to co-education, informed sources said here Tuesday. Delegations carrying banners condemning "obscurantist forces" Monday marched through the streets of (Mokalla), 628 kilometers (390 miles) east of here, to the headquarters of the ruling Yemen Socialist Party (YSP)

Party official Salim 'Umar Bakir, in an address to the crowd, lashed out at "obscurantist and terrorist forces" that he said had infiltrated student demonstrations here on Saturday, during which a solider was reported shot and seriously wounded. He charged that the provocateurs wanted to "exploit the spirit of political change and the climate of freedom" that prevails in South Yemen.

South Yemen, governed by the Marxist-Leninst YSP, last year implemented reforms that greatly eased restrictions on political and social life.

Islamic students also demonstrated in Aden last Thursday and were dispersed by police using water cannons.

Both the Thursday and Saturday gatherings demanded an end to co-education and to the teaching of Marxism, coupled with more school hours for religious instruction.

South Yemen is expected to unite by the end of the year with North Yemen, a more conservative state where Islam is the official religion. But Islamic militants in North Yemen have been sharply critical of a proposed constitution for a united Yemen, which describes Islam as a "principal"—rather than "the exclusive"—source of legislation.

Salih Receives Turkish State Minister, Message

JN2703190790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his office today brother Mehmet Kececiler, state minister in the Republic of Turkey, who conveyed to the president leader a written message from Turkish President Turgut Ozal dealing with bilateral relations and spheres of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries, as well as issues of common interest.

The message also contains congratulations and support for the current unionist steps in the Yemeni arena designed to regain its unity, which will serve Islam and the Muslims. The meeting was attended by Ahmad 'Ali, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth, and the Turkish ambassador to our country.

Syrian-Iranian 'Blackmail' on Hostages Cited

JN2503144290 Baghdad INA in English 1245 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 25, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad expected that the Syrian and Iranian regimes would gain enormous profits from their deals represented nowadays in the blackmail to release the hostages detained in Lebanon.

Commenting on the clandestine visit paid by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Tehran recently, the paper said that the goal of the visit was to carry out their conspiratorial schemes against the Arab nation as well as reviewing the American-Syrian-Iranian deals for freeing the hostages and normalizing relations between Iran and the United States.

The paper inquired on the motives that made the Syrian and Iranian regimes intensify their contacts at high-ranking levels on the question of foreign hostages at this very stage.

The paper said that the U.S. Administration had paid greater attention to the Syrian regime's role in releasing the hostages against normalizing the American-Iranian relations.

The paper linked between the Syrian regime's role in mediating for freeing the hostages against the American support for its role in Lebanon, referring that the Syrian regime exploits the hostages crisis as being one of the fundamental means of Washington consent on its presence in Lebanon. [sentence as received]

The paper derided the suspicious role exercised by Hafiz al-Asad regime which was keen on dispatching its officials in urgent and secret tasks to Tehran and Washington for satisfying the American Administration.

The paper further said that the Syrian regime was now to eradicate all matters contradictory to the U.S viewpoint, expressing its understanding of Washington demands.

Saddam Appoints Agriculture, Irrigation Minister

JN2503173390 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Presidential Decree No. 94]

[Text] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate.

In accordance with Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree as follows:

Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud 'Abdallah al-Sabbagh shall be appointed minister of agriculture and irrigation. The ministers shall implement this decree.

Done in Baghdad on 28 Sha'ban 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 25 March 1990.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Assembly Speaker Defends Bazoft Execution

JN2203124690 Baghdad INA in English 1205 GMT 22 Mar 90

[Text] Baghdad, Mar 22, INA—Mr. Sa'di Mahdi Salih speaker of the National Assembly confirmed that when Iraq carried out the just punishment against the Iranian-born British spy journalist Farzad Bazoft, it had exercised its legitimate right in defending the rights and sovereignty.

In letters sent to U.N. Secretary Generl Javier Perez de Cuellar, French President Francois Mitterrand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Salih said that the British stance versus this issue was trumped-up and ignored the righteousness because it did not recognize Iraq's right to preserving its security and national independence.

In his letters, Mr. Salih appealed to understanding Iraq's just and legitimate stand towards this issue.

Further on UN Mission Remarks on Bazoft

JN2403121590 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] United Nations, Mar 24, INA—A press release issued Friday by the Iraqi mission to the United Nations charged that parties hostile to Iraq are making claims at obscuring the crime committed by the spy Farzad Bazoft. The Iraqi mission said that claim that Bazoft was doing his normal job as a journalist "is a false claim because Bazoft was involved in an activity totally incompatible with the press mission for which he had been invited, and he violated the law of Iraq when he penetrated an exclusive military zone in disguise and in a manner alien to all forms of journalistic conduct."

The press [release] pointed out that London INDEPENDENT daily on March 13 said: "It is not very surprising that the Iraqis should have arrested him: An Iraqi journalist engaged in similar activities outside a sensitive military establishment in Britain would probably also have been. The Iraqis have reasons to be sensitive."

The press release said that the claim that Bazoft, while in detention, was not able to gain access to the British Embassy is also false, since the British consul met him on three occasions at least, all of which were attended by lawyers appointed by the British Embassy to defend him. "In none of those meetings did Bazoft say anything about mistreatment by the Iraqi authorities." It added that the claim that the death sentence passed on Bazoft was very severe and represents a threat to free journalism is untrue. "Spying for a country that is at war with Iraq is a serious crime which threatens the national security of Iraq.

"The contrary is true," the Iraqi mission went on to say, "for a conduct such as Bazoft's exposes true honest

journalism to real difficulties, creates problems amongst states and obstructs the free flow of information amongst nations."

"The claim that the sentence passed on Bazoft is contrary to the principle of individual freedom and international understanding and world peace is false. The life of individuals does not entitle any person to commit crimes against the security and integrity of states. In fact, acts of espionage such as those perpetrated by Bazoft themselves pose a threat to international understanding and world peace. It is the duty of all nations to work collectively to prevent such ill-conduct which is fundamentally harmful to the ethics of true journalism and international cooperation.

Continuing, the mission said: "The claim that the sentence contravenes international covenants and U.N. resolutions on human rights is yet another false claim. International covenants themselves prohibit the violation of national laws and attach great importance to the stability and integrity of states. Indeed, the states parties to those covenants are allowed to freeze the application of their provisions on their nationals in times of threat to the security and integrity of states. Article 4 of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights of 1966 provides that.

"In time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation and the existence of which is officially proclaimed, the states parties to the present covenant may take measures derogating from their obligations under the present covenant to the extent strictly required by the exigencies of the situation, provided that such measures are not inconsistent with their other obligation under international law and do not involve discrimination solely on the ground of race, color, sex, languages, religion or social origin."

Hence, the Iraqi mission pointed out, if states are entitled to apply Article 4 to the conduct of their own nationals, they should in the first place be entitled to apply such provisions to foreigners perpetrating acts which threaten their security.

It also noted that the resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in regard to the optional protocol to the international convenant on civil and political rights is, by definition "optional." Only 29 states of the total membership of the United Nations do not have capital punishment in their law. More than two-thirds of the countries of the world, including the United States of America, still impose capital punishment in certain cases.

"The claim that journalists face arrest or detention in Iraq is totally unfounded. The record of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information shows no case in which a journalist or a correspondent was ever arrested or detained, a fact demonstrating Iraq's commitment to true cooperation with the press and other media. In 1989 alone, some 2,033 journalists visited Iraq (625 of whom were non-Arab, including 17 from the United Kingdom). None of those journalists had any problem."

The Iraqi mission pointed out that a report published by the Press Association of Britain has disclosed that Bazoft had a criminal record in Britain. He was involved in an armed bank robbery in 1981, during which he is said to have stolen hundreds of pounds, being apprehended later and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment by a Northampton court.

In addition to the fact about this criminal record and prison sentence, and perhaps because of it, Bazoft is known to have faced deportation from Britain, the press release continued. As an Iranian who came from a pro-Shah family, he couldn't go back to Iran and was in effect without a place to go to, once he was deported from Britain.

It noted that Bazoft successfully appealed the deportation decision, "and one may assume that a deal was probably hacked up by the police in return for the deportation threat being lifted. That was probably the time when Bazoft began reporting on Iranians living in Britain. [no end quote as received]

Further facts are being disclosed now about Bazoft's involvement in spying activities for the Israelis, the press release noted. Intelligence experts in Britain have supported this view. Conservative MP Rupert Allason said on a radio interview on March 16: "We know now that Bazoft offered himself four times to the British Police as an informer. It would be very likely that he would offer himself to the Israelis." Allason added that Bazoft, on assignment in Iraq, probably heard about something that might be spicy for the Israelis, went to do his bit and got caught. Commenting on the affair, a British businessman is reported to have said: "What this individual did was stupid. When we were at war, the penalty for spying was death and people forget Iraq is still at war." (DAILY MAIL, Fri., March 16)

According to one special branch source, Bazoft, after his conviction, was a classic potential recruit to the security service at a time when Britain's relationship with Iran was at a low ebb in the wake of the siege of the Iranian Embassy in London. "He would automatically have been recorded at MI5," the source said. "The fact that he was appealing against the deportation order would have meant that his existence would have become known to MI5 in some form or another."

Nur al-Shams UNRWA Head Murdered in West Bank

TA2803073290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The UNRWA [UN Relief and Works Agency] head in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm in Samaria was murdered with knives and axes. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the man, Yasir Kazmawi, 32, was suspected of aiding the authorities. The attackers, masked young men in black clothing, broke down the front door of the house with a welding instrument and wounded six family members, three seriously. A curfew was imposed on the camp.

The Unified National Command of the Uprising has for some time demanded Kazmawi resign and threatened him in letters signed by a body called the Steadfast Eagle.

Knesset Resolutions on Jerusalem, Golan Heights

TA2803115290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The Knesset today adopted a resolution that united Jerusalem is under Israeli sovereignty and there will be no negotiations on its unity and status. The Knesset called on Israel's residents, including immigrants, to settle in all parts of greater Jerusalem.

The Knesset also reaffirmed the Golan Heights is an integral part of Israel, is important for the state's security, and our control of the area will not be subject to negotiations. The Knesset called on the government to make sure the necessary resources are provided to develop the Golan Heights' economically.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that 45 Knesset Members [MK's] supported the resolution, while four opposed it. The motion was initiated by Alignment MK Shlomo Hilel and was supported by the Likud, Alignment, Tehiya, Tzomet, Moledet, and the National Religious Party. The three HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] MK's and 'Abd al-Wahab Darawshah voted against.

[Jerusalem Radio at 1000 GMT 28 Mar in English in a similar report by David Ze'ev adds, "Israelis, including immigrants, are encouraged to settle all parts of the city. All efforts should be made to ensure its security and financial well-being. The necessary resources should be made available to provide jobs and housing in the city. The resolution also welcomes the vote by the U.S. Senate supporting a unifed Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. Labor Knesset Member Shevah Weiss recommended that the text of today's resolutions be sent to Washington, but Rehav'am Ze'evi of Moledet suggested otherwise, saying it would be embarassing if noted that only 45 members of the Knesset MK's voted for the resolution; four voted against."]

Knesset Committee Approves Funds for Settlements

TA2803104890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpt] The Knesset Finance Committee approved the appropriation of 20 million shekels for the settlement movement. Our correspondent Eytan Almog says half the sum is earmarked for settlements in the territories linked to the political right wing, and the other half for settlements in the Jordan Valley and the Golan Heights identified with the left wing. [passage omitted]

Sinyurah on Government Crisis, U.S. Stance

TA2703143290 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 26 Mar 90 p 16

[Interview with Hanna Sinyurah, AL-FAJR editor-in-chief, by Khalil Tuma; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: Has the breakup of the Israeli government improved the chances of activating the peace process?

A: Recent developments within the Israeli political body, up to the fall of the broad coalition government and the attempt of the Labour Party to form a new government, have reflected two main points: first, the crucial role of the religious parties as holders of the balance of power between Labour and Likud; second, the emergence of the peace process and an affirmative answer to (U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker's five points as the major difference between Likud and Labour.

Both camps in the Israeli Knesset are evenly divided and this diminishes the chances of a Labor-led government, its ability to make major decisions on the peace process, and even the stability of such a government if (Labor Party leader) Shim'on Peres succeeds in forming one.

The first conclusion to be drawn is that despite the fall of (Prime Minister Yithzaq) Shamir's government, he has already had his way in postponing and possibly shelving the peace process, probably throughout 1990.

Q: Which is better for the Palestinians, dealing with a large national unity govenment in Israel or a narrow government?

A: The Palestinian people and their representative, the PLO, have already elaborated and clarified their political position on the resolution of the conflict between the two peoples, based on the November 1988 resolutions of the PNC [Palestine National Council] and President (Yasir) 'Arafat's declarations in December 1988 at the United Nations in Geneva.

Thus, for the Palestinians, their preference is not toward a Labor-led, or Likud-led, or a grand coalition government. Their preference is directed at an Israeli government that can come to the negotiating table with its own agenda to negotiate with the PLO, which will also come to the negotiating table with the Palestinian agenda and peace initiative. The developments up to now indicate that the Likud is not ready, willing or able to do so,

because events of the past few weeks demonstrated that Shamir and his constraint ministers torpedoed the Shamir initiative.

Labor, if it can form the next government, has taken a public position to meet with a Palestinian delegation in Cairo, yet this depends on the ability to compose such a government. We should also not belittle the vast differences we have with Labor on various issues like the right to self-determination, negotiating with the PLO, an independent Palestinian state, and the future of Jerusalem.

Q: Do you detect any positive changes in the United States' position toward the Palestinian issue and the PLO?

A: U.S. policy formulated toward our region and specifically concerning the Israeli-Palestinian conflict takes into consideration domestic factors as well as the board support Congress demonstrates toward Israel. The Bush administration, in the attitude and statements of President Bush and Secretary Baker, have shown a deep understanding of the issues and stuck to U.S. commitments to Security Council Resolution 242 with regard to the occupied territories. By declaring East Jerusalem as (part of the) occupied territories, they have again refused the unilateral annexation by Israel of Arab East Jerusalem.

On the issue of recent Soviet Jewish immigration into the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, they have also taken a firm stand. They have been instrumental in trying to start the present deadlocked peace process by having a first encounter in Cairo. Senator (Robert) Dole's recent statements are also of immense importance. But we should not forget that on the issues of independence and self-determination, we are at odds. We should also take into consideration that Congress is even farther away from the positions of the Bush administration.

Q: Where does each of the following stand in your opinion: the Palestinian peace initiative, the Shamir plan, and the Baker plan?

A: The Palestinian peace initiative is a strategic goal of the Palestinian people endorsed by its legislative body, the Palestine National Council. Despite the obstacles, we are going to uphold it until we achieve an end to occupation. Palestinians under occupation have taken upon themselves the task of informing the Israeli public of the significance of this initiative for peace, coexistence and stability in this area and for the two peoples. The PLO has constantly declared that the Palestinian initiative is a basic policy that is supported by all the institutions of the PLO. Constantly repeating this attitude has already led to significant results internationally.

Concerning the Shamir plan, it was renounced by the Likud. However, it will be the basis of the peace plans of the Labor government, if they succeed in forming one. Baker's five points are valid if an Israeli government can muster a majority to give an affirmative "yes" to a meeting in Washington, D.C., among the three foreign ministers—or, as with many plans, it could be relegated to the bins of history.

Shamir Attacks Threats Against Immigrant Planes

TA2803105990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir today lashed out at terrorist threats to blow up planes carrying Jewish immigrants, saying they were part of a general Arab campaign against Israel. The prime minister was talking to the Aliyah Conference of the United Jewish Appeal in Jerusalem.

[Begin Shamir recording] The Arabs are waging a campaign against this wave of aliyah. They are mobilizing the support of foreign governments, they are encouraging the terrorist organizations to use physical violence. Let the world open its ears and its eyes to the Arab threats to blow up planes that carry Jewish immigrants, let the world see the depth of the Arab rejection of Israel's existence and raison d'etre.

It is time for governments and leaders in the West to take a second look at what the Arabs tell them and set their words against what the Arabs are doing to us. And to avoid misunderstandings which some governments have tried to inject into the issue and to exploit us, let me state clearly that it is not the policy of the Government of Israel to direct the olim [immigrants] to any particular areas of the country: to the Negev or the Galilee, to Judaea or Samaria, to Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. They have their free choice, but we shall not forbid any Jew from going wherever he wishes. Every Jewish immigrant has complete freedom to chose where he wants to live. [end recording]

Chief of Staff on Preparedness for Chemical War

TA2703171590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Chief of Staff Dan Shomron said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is prepared for the next war, even if the enemy uses chemical weapons. The IDF's deterrent capability is strong, and even the Syrians understand this. Shomron said the cancellation of the Lavi fighter jet project, which he had recommended, had improved the Army's budgetary situation. He asserted the intifadah had not harmed the IDF's operational ability, and reported the burden of reserve duty in the territories would be reduced this year and training stints would be increased.

Our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad reported the chief of staff was speaking to high school students in Jerusalem.

Newspaper Updates Palestinian Fatalities 26 Mar

TA2803101790 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 28 Mar 90 p 6

[By Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Monday, 26 March, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman reported 573 Palestinian fatalities in the occupied territories. The figure includes only those killed by soldiers' gunfire.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian fatalities is 729.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Data Center for Human Rights reports 887 fatalities, according to the following breakdown:
—642 fatalities from IDF soldiers' and settlers' gunfire.
— 87 fatalities from asphyxiation.
— 58 fatalities from beatings and electrocution.
—100 fatalities from other causes.

The number of fatalities among collaborators reached 200 last week.

Accords With USSR, Hungarian, PRC Delegations

TA2803112390 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Mar 90 p 6

[By agriculture affairs correspondent David Mosheyof]

[Text] The Agritech show was visited by five delegations from Soviet republics—comprising 30 visitors altogether—which expressed great interest in irrigation equipment and agriculture machinery. Some of them have already reached agreements with the Israel Export Institute on the establishment of joint projects involving millions of dollars.

Rafi Glick, director of the Export Institute's Industry Branch, said yesterday that several days ago, the institute signed an agreement with the eight-member delegation from Uzbekistan for the supply of Israeli-made irrigation products at a total of $700,000, and for joint manufacture of cotton fabrics. The delegation is interested in launching additional joint projects in the spheres of agriculture and solar energy. The Uzbeks will pay with cotton for the irrigation products.

Tomorrow an agreement will be signed with the six-member delegation from Kazakhstan for joint projects in the fields of irrigation and mechanical equipment and for the establishment of a consortium of Israeli agriculture companies that will operate jointly with Kazakhstan's State Fund company.

The Kazakhs also are interested in industrial equipment for the construction of food factories and the manufacture of aviation-related products. They will pay by materials that can be converted into dollars, such as oil, cotton, aluminum, zinc, and gems.

The 11-member delegation from Rostov, USSR, yesterday signed an agreement for the establishment of a joint company dealing with irrigation equipment and with equipment and know-how connected to the food industry.

The Latvian delegation, which represents a food company with a $40 million annual turnover, is interested in food-manufacturing equipment and in issues related to storage and production lines.

Also in Israel is Moscow's Trade Center director, who is negotiating setting up permanent display stands of Israeli equipment in the center.

It has been learned Glick is to leave for Moscow in May to speed up the implementation of the agreements and to forge new contacts for the promotion of new joint projects.

[In a related report, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 28 March on page 10 writes that under a new agreement, "the Hungarian Agriculture Ministry's Institute for Irrigation Research undertook to build and manage a permanent exhibition centre at its headquarters, where Israel irrigation-equipment manufacturers would display and demonstrate their products."

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew, the Mamon supplement, on 28 March, in a page 3 report by Nurit Arad adds: "An eight-member delegation from the PRC, which includes some of the senior Chinese irrigation experts" "has reached an agreement for the establishment of a model farm 400 km away from Beijing. Israeli products in the amount of about $80,000 will be sent to the farm."]

Ethiopian 'High-Level' Delegation Arrives

TA2803091090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] A high-level Ethiopian delegation arrived in Israel last night for talks with government leaders. Our correspondent Serge Kovac reports the delegation is headed by Kassa Kabede, President Mengistu's political adviser. On arrival the guests conferred with Foreign Minister Arens, and a meeting is planned with Prime Minister Shamir. Me'ir Yoffe was named Israeli ambassador in Addis Ababa a few days ago.

PLO Envoy Here for Information Cooperation Talks

Meets Interior, Information Ministers

JN2603165890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, met at his office in the Prime Ministry this afternoon with Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and Information Department head, in the presence of Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din.

During the meeting, they reviewed cooperation between Jordan and the PLO and ways of improving it, especially in the field of the media, in order to reveal the dangers of Jewish emigration.

The meeting also dealt with the efforts by Jordan and the PLO in the international arena aimed at establishing a just and permament peace to the Palestine question and peace in the region.

Education Minister Dr. Khalid al-Karaki also met with Mr. 'Abd-Rabbuh. They reviewed appropriate ways of developing educational cooperation between the Ministry of Education and the PLO Education Department. They also discussed the role of educational activities in supporting the Palestinian intifadah and revealing the dangers of Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Reaches Initial Agreement

JN2703085390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 90 pp 1, 3

[By staff reporter Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn Monday received a message from Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat on the latest developments in the Arab and Palestinian issues and Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation.

The message was delivered to the King by Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, member of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee, in a meeting attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Royal Court Chief al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the King's Political Advisor 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah and Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who is also head of the Department of Information of the PLO, is on an official visit to the Kingdom for talks on Jordan-PLO coordination on information.

On Monday, the PLO delegation was received by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah and Minister of Culture Khalid al-Karaki in separate meetings.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, 'Abd-Rabbuh described his talks in Amman, the first-ever Jordan-PLO dialogue on ministerial level, as "a new stage in Jordanian-PLO relations."

He said the new stage was made possible by Jordan's disengagement from the West Bank in July 1988, the resumption of parliamentary life in the Kingdom and the formation of the government of Mudar Badran.

"The dialogue affirms the disengagement decision and rectifies the negative aspects that initially accompanied the decision," 'Abd-Rabbuh, a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), told the JORDAN TIMES.

He said his talks in Amman over the last two days had produced an initial agreement on four points of action in Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation in the field of information:

—The development and production of a Hebrew-language television programme in coordination with the existing Hebrew-language news programme which would address and influence public opinion in Israel.

—Cooperation between Jordan and the PLO in television production, drama and theatre was also discussed in an effort to promote the Palestinian uprising.

—Efforts to televise educational programmes prepared by the al-Quds Open University and other university-level educational programmes in an attempt to aid those who have been deprived of university education during the 27-month-old intifada were also discussed.

—Cooperation in cultural events and the publication of leaflets and pamphlets promoting the intifada were also discussed. It was agreed that cooperation between the Jordan News Agency, Petra, and the Palestinian news agency WAFA would continue.

Gives More Details on Agreement

JN2703102290 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Mar 90 p 26

[Text] Amman—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations will undergo a new phase of close coordination and cooperation on all levels to confront common dangers, especially the results of Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied Palestinian territories.

In statements to AL-RA'Y and JORDAN TIMES folowing an audience with His Majesty King Husayn, 'Abd-Rabbuh added that the next phase calls for joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves internationally to confront Soviet Jewish immigration and its impact on the Palestine question.

'Abd-Rabbuh did not give the details of these joint moves; however, official Palestinian sources have confirmed to AL-RA'Y that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan in the near future to hold important

talks with His Majesty King Husayn on this subject and other matters related to developing joint cooperation.

In his statements, 'Abd-Rabbuh explained that this joint cooperation has already taken specific forms in terms of information between the Jordanian Information Ministry and the Palestinian Information Department.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the current close cooperation between Jordan and the PLO rectifies the negative atmosphere that marked the phase following the disengagement decision.

'Abd-Rabbuh declared that Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and coordination is a historical necessity.

He disclosed that the Palestinian side and the Jordanian Information Ministry have reached an agreement on cooperation in the various information fields as follows:

1. Joint publications on the Palestine question and the Jordanian and Palestinian positions on issues pertaining to the occupied Palestinian territories.

2. Coordination on the Hebrew-language program broadcast by Jordan Television with a view to influencing Israeli forces and public opinion.

3. Production of television programs, including documentary films and drama, highlighting the Palestine question and the dangers of Soviet Jewish immigration. Informed Palestinian sources have explained that the PLO intends to finance programs and films produced in the studios of the Jordanian Television Production Company.

4. Coordination on publicizing common issues in the international media.

5. Agreement to broadcast Jerusalem University's educational programs on Jordan Television.

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN2703125190 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member, at his office today. He discussed with him political developments related to the Palestine question and the threat represented by Soviet Jewish emigration to the occupied territories.

Al-Qasim reiterated Jordan's support for PLO efforts to secure the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination on their national soil.

Comments on Talks

JN2703211590 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Interview with Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the Information Department, by Maha al-Sha'ir, in Amman on 27 March—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sha'ir] You've met with His Majesty King Husayn and Jordanian top officials. Could you tell us about the agreements that you've reached?

['Abd-Rabbuh] I had the opportunity to meet with his majesty and with other top officials and leaders in Jordan. I can say that there was complete understanding and, more than that, a common position towards all issues in this stage.

What our common aim is, is to continue the process of peace, this process which was launched since the declaration of the Palestinian peace initiative and the resolutions of the summit in Casablanca. And now, we have, of course, certain crucial issues which we have to face together and with the participation of other brotherly Arab countries on the bases of the Arab summit resolutions in Casablanca, mainly the countries of the confrontation, or those who are involved in the preparation for the international conference. I can say that we were able to reach at complete understanding towards all these issues. And in the near future, we will be able to motivate more and more other forces in the region, I hope, to make the resolutions which we had taken, and the position of the Arab countries, more effective on different levels, especially since we are discussing now in the Security Council the question of the emigration to the occupied territories. And this question needs joint action between different Arab countries and it needs as well joint action between Jordan and the State of Palestine. So all these issues, I think, were discussed and we did not find any difficulty in defining the detailed approach and ways of dealing with them.

U.S. Senate Castigated for Jerusalem Resolution

JN2603101690 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 26 Mar 90 pp 1,16

[Editorial: "An Irresponsible Decision and a Suspicious Stand"]

[Text] The decision recently adopted by the U.S. Congress concerning the status of the occupied city of Jerusalem is the newest example of how badly American legislators lack the virtues of justice and wisdom, and also how seriously these congressmen of the great American nation lack the spirit that once inspired the U.S. Constitution, with all the sublime principles, high ideals, and noble humanitarian values enshrined in it.

In one of the most rare instances of an elected legislature abandoning its obligations toward common humanitarian principles, the U.S. Congress adopted a quick

decision, devoid of all moral power and any political consideration, acknowledging the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel. This decision is exactly the same as the one adopted by the Zionist occupiers in this respect, no more and no less.

Perhaps, the greatest harm that has been done by this decision is that it came amid intensive U.S. efforts by President Bush's administration to open a crack in the solid Israeli wall against any peace initiative. It is, thus, direct encouragement to Israeli diehards to reject the U.S. initiative itself. It would also undoubtedly harm U.S. policy and interests, and present a strange paradox for the U.S. Congress.

There is no doubt that this congressional decision, which does not enjoy any legal power or have any practical value, can only be considered as an attempt by Israel and its supporters in Congress to circumvent the U.S. Administration's efforts and to torpedo the Bush-Baker initiative, which has succeeded to some extent in exposing Israel's true feelings against peace in the Middle East.

Therefore, we hope that this reckless decision which does not serve the interests or policy of the United States in the region, will not restrict the freedom of the Bush administration, an administration that has demonstrated justice, right, and equitability concerning the final status of Jerusalem and the settlement of Soviet Jewish immigrants in this holy city, which under this U.S. view is considered an indivisible part of the Arab territories occupied in 1967.

At the same time, we hope that the congressional decision will keep Arab eyes wide open to any U.S.-Zionist plots that might be hatched against the Arabism of Jerusalem and also to any large-scale settlement plans that might be aimed at changing the Arab charter of this holy city, especially in the current phase which is witnessing a large-scale influx of Jewish immigrants, some of whom are settled in Jerusalem and the rest in the remaining parts of the occupied Arab territories.

King Husayn, Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi Discuss Ties

JN2503202190 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] His Majesty the King and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi today exchanged views on current Arab issues. This came in a telephone conversation between the two leaders who affirmed the need for active action to counter the challenges and international developments. They also affirmed the need to crystallize positions for a unified national stand toward all Arab issues. The conversation also covered bilateral relations and means of bolstering them.

Press Boycotts Lower House Sessions 26, 27 March

JN2703072390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Mar 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordanian correspondents of local, foreign and international publications boycotted Monday's session of the Lower House of Parliament in protest against attacks by some deputies against the local press for publishing part of the secret discussions the House held last week on corruption and financial mismanagement.

Therefore, all Jordanian newspapers have decided not to cover the deliberations of the House Monday.

The unwarranted attack by some deputies against the press also prompted Jordanian journalists to boycott Tuesday's session of the House.

House Asks King To Allow Extraordinary Session

JN2703155090 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Amman, 27 Mar (PETRA)—House of Representatives Speaker Sulayman 'Arar has said that the House has requested His Majesty King Husayn to agree to hold an extraordinary session of the House of Representatives. A royal decree to this effect is expected to be issued soon.

'Arar said that after a royal decree is issued to prorogue the current ordinary session of the Parliament, citizens can assess that session and its achievements. He stated that although its term was short, the House fulfilled many of its promises to the citizens, and the deputies were able to raise issues of interest to our country, our economy, and the safety and comfort of our citizens.

In a statement to PETRA, 'Arar added that cooperation with the government was excellent, and it expedited the government's response to demands—in some cases, even before they were announced by the House—such as realizing public liberties, releasing political prisoners, returning confiscated passports and solving many other problems, which our citizens thought would be solved only after many years. However, during one session, these problems were solved, many laws were studied, and committees worked actively.

'Arar added: We hope that during the next extraordinary session, which may be held after the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, we will be able to study more laws in the same previous tranquillity and objectivity.

UN Chief Arrives in Al-'Aqabah on Private Visit

JN2703212490 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] United Nations Secretary General and Mrs. Javier Perez de Cuellar arrived in Al-'Aqabah international airport this evening on a private visit to Jordan at the invitation of his majesty the king. The visit will last several days. The United Nations chief was welcomed upon arrival by the deputy prime minister and foriegn minister, Marwan al-Qasim, Jordan's permanent United Nations representative 'Abdallah Salah, and a number of local officials.

U.S. Settler William Robinson Killed in South

NC2803091890 Paris AFP in English 0915 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, March 28 (AFP)—Gunmen have shot dead a U.S. social worker accused of trying to establish a Jewish settlement in southern Lebanon, security sources said here Wednesday.

William Bell Robinson, who ran a center for mentally-retarded children inside the Israeli-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, was gunned down at his home late Tuesday by three men, the sources said.

On Monday, officials from 18 villages in southern Lebanon renewed demands for Mr. Robinson's expulsion, saying he was trying to set up the country's first ever Jewish settlement in their midst.

[At 0900 GMT on 28 March, Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic cites "the enemy's radio" and adds that "American Jew William Robinson was shot dead by masked men in his house in Rashayya al-Fukhkhar village last night."]

Hunt for Murderers in Progress

TA2803093590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] A wide-scale hunt is in progress for the murderers of U.S. missionary Bill Robinson, who was murdered last night in the village of Rashayyah al-Fukhkhar in the security zone.

SLA [South Lebanese Army] sources told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that, according to eyewitnesses, three people armed with kalashnikovs with silencers broke into the missionary's home. It is possible that they were mercenaries from Beirut.

Robinson arrived in southern Lebanon some eight years ago and set up an institution for retarded children. A month ago he became interested in buying part of a wood near the institution and since then he had been widely attacked in the Lebanese press, including reports that he planned to set up a settlement there for new Jewish immigrants.

UNIFIL [UN Interim Forces in Lebanon] command gave a report on the incident to the UN secretary general and the U.S. Embassy in Israel.

Resistance Group Claims Responsibility

NC2803121090 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1135 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] American Jewish settler William Bell Robinson was killed in the Rashayya al-Fakhkhar school building yesterday.

The Lebanese National Resistance Front command claimed responsibility for the operation at noon today. The front said the Martyr Lula Ilyas 'Abbud group of the al-Rumaylah martyrs unit last night carried out the death sentence against Robinson, who worked to set up Israeli settlements in the Lebanese territories. [passage omitted]

Car Bomb in Eastern Area Injures 'Awn Soldiers

NC2703201790 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] A BMW car rigged with 50 kg of TNT exploded on the Rumiyah barracks road this evening as a military convoy of the 'Awn clique was passing. REUTER, which carried the report, said that a number of 'Awn soldiers were injured. 'Awn's radio, which confirmed the report, said that a military cordon was thrown around the site and that investigations into the explosion have begun.

Two Killed in East Beirut Fighting 27 Mar

NC2703181190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Tension on the newly created combat lines in al-Ashrafiyah has abated since 1500 today, when a cease-fire agreement was reached following contacts held with the joint military committee. Only sniper fire is now being directed at the Lebanese Forces positions in al-Dawrah. A flare was fired over al-Ashrafiyah at 1900.

One Lebanese Forces member was killed by sniper fire in the al-Nab'ah area. A citizen was also killed when a shell fell on his house in the Hotel Dieu area in al-Ashsrafiyah.

Our correspondent also reports that the 'Ayn Turah area in central Kasrawan came under intermittent 120-mm mortar fire at 1545.

Lebanese Forces Officer on Cease-Fire Violations

NC2703185890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Major General Fu'ad Malik, chief of the Lebanese Forces General Staff, has stated that there are no justifiable reasons for the current successive violations of the cease-fire. He stressed that the Lebanese Forces occasionally are compelled to return fire after the intensity of the gunfire directed at their positions reaches unbearable limits. The Lebanese Forces fire back at the sources of fire and at military positions. This explains why civilian life continues normally in other areas.

At a news conference this evening, Maj. Gen. Malik said that he hopes for political solutions for all pending issues. He called on the citizens not to heed rumors which are circulated in an organized way. Nevertheless, he noted that these rumors have never implied that the Lebanese Forces harbor any offensive plans. [passage omitted]

French Envoy: Consultations in East 'Useless'

NC2703180690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] French Ambassador Rene Ala has stated that the consultations he has been holding in the eastern area have become useless. He expressed concern about a new wave of violence in the eastern area.

President Ilyas al-Hirawi received the French ambassador at 1615 today. The meeting lasted until 1740. After the meeting, the French ambassador was asked: Your country's position is supportive of legitimacy. You have held meetings with General 'Awn. Did you convey any new views to President al-Hirawi today?

The ambassador replied: With regard to France's position, you are correct in saying that it is clear. We heard the opposite before, and that was not right. Regarding the consultations which I have held in the eastern area, in agreement with his excellency the president I will say nothing, and will leave it to the president to announce the results. Personally, I think that consultations of this kind are useless at present. This is what I told his excellency the president. This does not mean that I am not prepared to undertake further contacts when necessary or when it might be useful. But at present, I repeat, the consultations we have been having have proved useless.

He was asked: In light of the continued clashes in the eastern area, do you think that the establishment of a unified political position for contacts with legitimacy will facilitate a solution?

He replied: Like my government, I think that Lebanon's problems cannot be solved by force, violence, and military means. This applies to the situation in the eastern area as well as to any other Lebanese problem. The people have suffered enough and endured a great deal because of this futile conflagration in the eastern area. With all my heart I hope that a fresh round of violence, about which much has been said, will not take place.

Ambassador Ala was told: You seem to be pessimistic. He replied: I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic. I wish you would remove these words from your dictionary. We must maintain hope and not optimism in this country and work to achieve this hope.

'Awn Source Says Funds Used To Meet People's Needs

NC2703140490 (Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Commenting on remarks by Mr. Ilyas al-Hirawi, a responsible source in the government has stated the following:

1. The funds kept in private banks and the state accounts departments are at the disposal of the legitimate government and will remain so until authority is handed over to the constitutional legitimate body that will come after it, in accordance with the Constitution and the law. This sum does not exceed two percent of the total funds belonging to the people, which are in the Central Bank.

2. This money was put aside after the Central Bank stopped opening credits at the beginning of 1989 at the request and on the instructions of the so-called al-Huss government, and after it had become evident that the money belonging to the people was pillaged throughout 1989 and early 1990 in scandalous ways, the most recent being the passports scandal.

3. The legitimate government has safeguarded the money belonging to the people and is spending it on meeting this people's urgent needs in accordance with the laws and regulations. It regrets that those who have illegally assumed authority are blackmailing this authority to stop paying the people the money that belongs to them.

AL-ANWAR reports that General Michel 'Awn has sent written messages to a number of presidents explaining the suspension of payment of the salaries of the eastern area employees. In the letter he said that the employees should be kept neutral in the political struggles and he called on these presidents to intervene to ensure that the salaries of the eastern area employees are paid.

Rizq Blames Vatican for Christians' Fate

NC2703144290 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Justice and Information Minister Edmond Rizq has said that he will hold the Vatican directly responsible for the blood of the Christians in Lebanon and for the fate of the Christians in the East if it remains hesitant about taking a firm and decisive stand on Michel 'Awn's crimes and on the crimes that are committed in the name of defending Christians and Christian society.

Speaking at a news conference today, he said that there are certain external and local circumstances which are impeding and delaying salvation. He added: I take the liberty of addressing the highest Catholic authority in the world; that is, the Vatican. I say that henceforth there must be no hesitation in taking a final stand on the crimes committed by Michel 'Awn in the eastern area and throughout Lebanon. It is the Christians who are paying the price for the consequences of these crimes, he declared.

Answering a question, the information minister said: The people have the right to expect the legitimate government to save them from the current situation. There is no doubt that the government's duty is to use all means for the sake of salvation. He added: The inclination of our government is a peaceful one and our resources are for construction, not for destruction.

Minister Rizq appealed to fraternal and friendly countries not to wash their hands of the blood of Lebanon. He called on them not to consider that they have done their duty just because a meeting was held in al-Ta'if or just

because they merely recognized the national accord government and its legitimacy and presented their credentials to President al-Hirawi. He added that this is not enough if they want to have a clear conscience about Lebanon.

Rizq went on to say that the Chamber of Deputies is the basis of legitimate authority in the country and that there would have been neither president nor government without it. It is the guarantee of the legitimate authority and the democratic system in Lebanon, he asserted. After calling on the Lebanese people to rally around the legitimate authority, he said: All countries must stop their aid to the criminals who are torturing Lebanon, and deprive them of oil and weapons.

Addressing the officers who still obey 'Awn's orders, he asked them to explain all these crimes and to say how they will face their consciences. He then asked them whether this is the duty of those who took an oath to defend the homeland.

Amal, Hizballah Trade Fire in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2803094090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] In Iqlim al-Tuffah, Amal and Hizballah traded mortar fire last night until early this morning.

Casualties in East Beirut Land Mine Explosion

NC2803100890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] According to security sources, a land mine went off under a civilian car near an Army center opposite Galerie al-Ittihad this morning. The same sources added there have been casualties as a result of the powerful blast.

Katyushas Lobbed in S. Lebanon; No Casualties

TA2803084590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Several katyushas were lobbed this morning at the eastern sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. No casualties or damage was caused. Hizballah claimed responsibility for the shelling.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in the Hasbayya area returned fire at terrorist targets north of the security zone.

Security Flareup Reported in Eastern Area 28 Mar

NC2803053090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The situation flared up at 0500 today when RPG-7 and machine gun fire was directed at the al-Sayyidah and Sinn al-Fil areas from opposing positions in the cold storage warehouse. At 0520, RPG-7 projectiles were fired at al-Shaluhi and its environs. The attacks on the areas of Galerie al-Ittihad, al-Birah, and al-Shaluhi stopped at 0620 when a cease-fire agreement was reached.

Further on Security Violations in East Beirut

NC2803115190 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The joint security committee has managed to work out a cease-fire agreement which went into effect at 1230 today following security violations along the combat lines of Kasrawan and Beirut. At 1130, Bakish was subjected to concentrated bombardment from tanks and field and mortar artillery coming from the Army units' positions in Tallat Mazar. The Lebanese Forces' positions and residential areas in al-Qulay'at also came under sniper fire from the Army units' positions.

Losses in East Beirut Fighting Detailed

NC2803093690 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 26 Mar 90 p 7

[Text] A source close to President Ilyas al-Hirawi has revealed preliminary information about the losses incurred during the war in East Beirut. According to the source, 60 percent of East Beirut's infrastructure has been destroyed. The fighting led to the destruction of 80 percent of the Finance Ministry offices and 70 percent of the facilities run by the Ministry of Telecommunications and Post.

The Army's losses were even more serious. Sixty percent of the army's infrastructure was destroyed, and 45 percent of Army vehicles were destroyed or captured. More specifically, the Army lost 70 tanks—20 were destroyed and 50 seized by the Lebanese Forces.

The source mentioned that 'Awn has used up about 70 percent of the Army's ammunition. Fifty percent of Army personnel have deserted either to their villages to the North or to the ranks of Army Commander General Emil Lahhud and Colonel Paul Faris.

Soviet Envoy Denies Moves in Response to Threat

NC2803094590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha denied his embassy has reduced the number of its diplomats or advised its staff to limit their moves. Kolotusha described a report by REUTER about this as a mere rumor.

REUTER had cited diplomatic sources as saying the Soviet Union reduced the number of diplomats in its Beirut Embassy following threats by an Islamic group that it will attack the facilities of countries involved in the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Algeria To Increase Military Aid to Lahhud's Army

NC2803073890 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Algerian envoy Mohamed Taher has declared that his country has decided to increase military aid to the Lebanese Army under the command of General Emile Lahhud. The Algerian envoy pointed out that Algeria will add artillery weapons to the list, which will also include logistics assistance.

Hungarian Airlines Suspends Flights to Beirut

NC2603182890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The Hungarian airline has suspended its flights to Beirut in the wake of the threats a clandestine organization has made against the airlines that transport Soviet Jews to Israel.

A MALEV official told AFP that after a five-year suspension the Hungarian airline resumed flights between Budapest and Beirut on 16 March and was to run two flights a week. However, the second flight that was slated for 20 March has been cancelled. The spokesman added that MALEV has now suspended its flights until further notice.

Cabinet Discusses Administrative, Economic Issues

NC2603184490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Excerpts] The cabinet held an extraordinary meeting at the temporary presidential headquarters in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi at 1615 today. The meeting, which ended at 1930, was attended by Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss and the ministers, except for Ministers George Sa'adah and Michel Sasin. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, Information Minister Edmond Rizq made the following the statement:

[Begin recording] The cabinet studied a long list of topics on its agenda and adopted decisions on about 30 issues pertaining to administrative affairs, public services, and economic matters. This is one of a series of meetings which the cabinet will hold to deal with urgent issues and to decide on the constitutional and legal amendments to be submitted to the Chamber of Deputies. The subjects discussed and approved today dealt with affairs of daily life, the administration and its reorganization, and the refurbishment of the various sectors needed by the state at this time. [end recording]

Importance of Al-Asad Visit to Libya Emphasized

JN2603160890 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Arab and international political circles have shown deep interest in leader al-Asad's visit to the fraternal Libyan Jamahiriyah, which has militant implications and represents a serious and tangible endeavor to crystallize Arab solidarity at the level of dangers threatening the Arab nation in order to protect it from harm and safeguard its rights and interests. This deep interest stems from Syria's pan-Arab role in the region and from leader al-Asad's firm stands in defense of the Arab nation and in confronting the hostile plots designed to fragment it and prevent its progress toward regaining its position among vital and active nations. This deep interest in the visit is also due to the fact that leader al-Asad has reiterated, strongly this time, achieving effective Arab solidarity, rising above trivialities, and reaching the pan-Arab level of responsibility, especially since the Zionist danger threatens all the Arabs without any discrimination.

Leader al-Asad received a warm welcome from the Libyan masses, who see in him a staunch defender of the dignity of the Arab nation and a bold fighter who does not believe in truce or concessions and who prefers the higher pan-Arab interest to any other consideration. His participation in the Libyan people's happiness on the anniversary of the evacuation of the British forces is a true expression of cooperation and solidarity at a time when the fraternal country is being exposed to pressures and threats from hostile forces.

Al-Asad's talks with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, President Mubarak, and President al-Bashir centered on ways to stimulate the Arab forces, revive the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, and confront the serious challenges in order to reinforce the call for an essential change in the Arab arena and enable the Arabs to determine their fate, wager on their intrinsic power and solutions stemming from their beliefs that are in harmony with the glories and aspirations of the homeland and the nation.

By praising leader al-Asad's pan-Arab and national positions as well as Syria's steadfastness and its longstanding struggle for the sake of the Arabs' dignity and power, Col. al-Qadhdhafi urges the fraternal Arab countries to follow Syria's pan-Arab line. Arab solidarity, which has been a firm goal of Syria, has never been a tactic or a slogan in the market of bargains. It means serious and persistent work to reinforce the Arab capabilities. Syria today is a strike force defending the nation's rights, future, and destiny. Syria was actually the first to defend all the Arab causes, make great sacrifices, safeguard the Arabism of Lebanon and Palestine, foil the Zionist plans designed to fragment Lebanon into disputing sectarian entities, and Judaize Palestine. Syria has not spared any effort to extend assistance to the brave Palestinian intifadah. It also has been for Palestine just as the Palestinian is for Palestine.

There is no doubt that leader al-Asad's talks with the Arab leaders in the Libyan Jamahiriyah as well as the resulting agreement on ways to repulse dangers and awaken the Arab forces constitute the first ray of hope, and there will certainly be further steps toward reviving effective Arab solidarity. The Arabs have the manpower, material capability, and great vitality, and if they are honest to their cause, they can amaze the whole world as they did during the October liberation war, and achieve a decisive change in favor of the Palestinian people's rights. Syria's call for stimulating enthusiasm is due to deep-rooted facts and realities. Our Arab nation is a vital nation, its capabilities are huge, and its masses all over the Arab world are ready to sacrifice. These masses' history, glories, aspirations and sacrifices affirm their ability to achieve victory. The usurper Israeli enemy will not retreat even one inch from its hostile and expansionist plans. It exploits the current Arab fragmentation and Arab wagering on foreign solutions designed to realize greater Israel. It is time to confront what is taking place and defeat the enemies' designs that threaten everybody. Our Arab nation is not inferior to any other nation, which struggled, fought, sacrificed, and achieved final victory.

Decree Refers Supply Crimes to 'Ordinary Judiciary'

JN2703160190 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1520 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Damascus, 27 Mar (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has issued Legislative Decree No. 2 asking the military governor to refer supply and pricing crimes to their original authority represented in the ordinary judiciary.

Accordingly, the prime minister issued decisions to implement the decree.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Allegedly Seize Capital of Vardak

BK2803055490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0550 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Islamabad, March 28 (AFP)—Afghan security forces have arrested 3,000 people believed linked to the foiled coup attempt against the Kabul government earlier this month, Western diplomats here said Wednesday [28 March]. Some diplomats said many officers and soldiers, fearing reprisals, had fled with their families, crippling in particular the Air Force which played a leading role in the coup launched March 6 by Defense Minister Shahnawaz Tanay.

Soviet resupply efforts meanwhile continue, with an air supply effort operating to the Afghan capital and dozens of military supply trucks arriving "constantly" in the capital with rockets and munitions for the Afghan regime, the diplomats said.

The U.S.- and Pakistani-backed mujahidin meanwhile have captured the Vardak Province capital of Kowt-e 'Ashrow, some 50 kilometers (30 miles) southwest of Kabul, after a week-long coordinated assault by three resistance movements, including the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami movement of Golbuddin Hekmatyar, the sources said. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Soviet Transport Plane Crashes in Kabul

BK2703122090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 27 (AFP)—A Soviet transport plane crashed and exploded into flames while approaching Kabul airport Tuesday [27 March], witnesses and airport sources said. The giant Ilyushin-76 rolled over several times before crashing into the mountains about six to eight kilometers (3-1/2 to five miles) south of the airport, the witnesses said.

Officials were not available for comment on the crash Tuesday, a government holiday, and Soviet embassy officials could not be reached.

An airport maintenance official said the plane, with a load capacity of 40 tonnes, may have developed a technical fault that caused it to crash.

No details of casualties were available, but reliable sources said the planes usually carry a crew of eight to 10. All on board were believed to have been killed.

TASS news agency, which did not say how many people were on board, said the Aeroflot Ilyushin-76 was carrying a non-military cargo.

The plane crashed at about noon Kabul time (0730 GMT) in reasonably good visibility, although overnight rain had hampered civilian flights Tuesday [27 March] morning. Soldiers in the vicinity of the airport prevented reporters from driving to the crash site.

At least two helicopters were seen flying to the site and witnesses reported having seen smoke billowing skywards. Some said the plane had been totally destroyed, but this could not immediately be confirmed.

The plane was flying at a height of about 2,000 meters when it plunged to the ground, and diplomatic sources speculated that it could have been hit by a U.S. supplied Stinger missile fired by mujahidin resistance fighters operating in the mountains around the city. The missile has a range of more than 3,000 meters.

The IL-76, the backbone of the massive Soviet airlift that keeps Kabul supplied with food, fuel and ammunition, has a reputation of being a sturdy plane with a good record of safe landings. A Stinger missile was fired from inside Kabul city limits at a Soviet transport plane on February 2.

The attack on the plane, which was not hit and landed safely in Kabul, elicited a strong warning from Soviet Ambassador Boris Pastukhov, who said any future attempts would bring "grave consequences."

Some 30 to 40 Soviet transport planes fly into Kabul daily from Tashkent, spitting flares and spiralling down to the airport in a steep corkscrew to try to avoid the Stingers.

'Extremists' Kill 27 in Missile Attack on Kabul

LD2703220990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] On the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, the criminal extremists, these enemies of the sacred religion of Islam, fired four Sakr-30 ground-to-ground missiles, thereby committing another inhuman and anti-Islamic action. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section reports that under the instruction of the Pakistani militarists and the United States, the missiles were fired from the Paghman District at Kabul's populated and residential areas by the sold-out extremists.

As a result of a missile impact on a minibus, 27 of our compatriots were martyred. Also as a result of the impact of the other three missiles, 22 people were wounded. The wounded were quickly transferred to the hospital for treatment. Material damage has also been suffered as a result of the missile attack.

Foreign Ministry Condemns Attack

BK2803083490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 28 (AFP)—The Afghan Government Wednesday [28 March] condemned resistance rocketing of the capital which left 27 dead as a "terrorist action" at the start of the holy Muslim fasting month of

Ramadan. "This is a gift from the criminal extremists for their Muslim brethren for Ramadan," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said a day after the rocketing, the worst on the capital this year. "No one can justify such an action," he added.

Half a dozen rockets fell in crowded areas Tuesday, killing at least 27 people and wounding 30. All 27, including 15 women and children, died when an Egyptian-made Sakr-30 rocket fired from the surrounding Paghman Mountains tore through a packed bus in the Pol-e Mahmud area. Of the 30 injured, many were hospitalized with multiple wounds, and reporters who visited the Jumhuriyat Hospital where 19 were admitted were barred from the emergency wards.

On Wednesday a bomb exploded in the Taimani area of Kabul wounding a woman and a child, hospital sources said.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman theorized that the mujahidin rockets had been designed to show the population of Kabul that "they are still around". The rocketing came on the same day that a Soviet transport plane crashed and exploded into flames while approaching Kabul airport leaving nine crewmen dead.

Reliable sources said the Afghan Air Force had ordered an inquiry into the crash of the giant Ilyushin-76, which some diplomats speculated could have been shot down by a Stinger missile fired by the resistance. However there was no definite word on the cause of the crash.

Nationalist Leader 'Shot Dead' in Peshawar

BK2703153490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1520 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, March 27 (AFP)—A nationalist Afghan leader who was also director of a relief association was shot dead here Tuesday [27 March] amid a wave of political murders in Afghan refugee areas, resistance sources said. Doctor Saadat Shegiwal, director of the Afghan Aid Association and also central committee member of the nationalist Afghan Millat Party, was gunned down by unidentfied gunmen in the morning near his office, they said.

Dr. Shegiwal was the third prominent figure assassinated in this city bordering Afghanistan in the past week.

A top guerrilla commander, Nasim Akhunzada, was killed along with his five companions in an ambush Sunday, while another Afghan leader was shot dead two days earlier.

Dr. Shegiwal, 38, who was arrested twice by the communist regime in Afghanistan, lived in Pakistan for the past eight years.

Resistance sources said he was shot dead near the residence of Afghan Interm Government (AIG) President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi.

It was not clear if the murder was the result of internal rivalry or the work of Afghan agents. The resistance blamed the murder of Akhunzada on the Soviet secret service, the KGB.

Watanjar Introduces New Deputy Defense Ministers

LD2603212490 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] General Muhammad Aslam Watanjar, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, today introduced to the leadership and staff at the ministry's headquarters the deputy defense ministers who have been appointed in line with a decree of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reports that in a meeting arranged for this purpose and attended by Major General Manokay Mangal, the head of the Army Political Affairs Department, and a number of department heads, generals, and officers, the defense minister spoke about the duties and responsibilities of those present, and outlined their future tasks to enhance the units' combat preparations.

The minister introduced Major General Muhammad Zahir Solamal, first deputy minister; Major General Muhammad Akram, deputy minister for personnel and cadre affairs; Brigadier General Gol Muhammad, deputy minister of logistics.

At the end of the meeting Brigadier General Gol Muhammad spoke on behalf of the others and reassured those present that they would fulfill their duties undefatigably in order to implement the national reconciliation policy and to ensure peace and security.

Najibullah Chairs Defense Council Meeting

LD2603082190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 25, BAKHTAR—Presided over by Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan (RA), session of the Higher Council for the Defence of the Country was held here today.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that Sultan 'Ali [Keshtmand], chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers delivered a report in relation to the socio-economic growth and state budget for the year 1363 (started March 21, 1990) and after thorough discussions were approved.

Matters relating the ensuring of security on the highways, economic institutions, work hours and transportation of official employees were assessed in the session and necessary decisions were adopted.

UN Assistance Official Arrives for Consultations

'Peace Zones' for Refugees

BK2603144490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1442 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 26 (AFP)—A United Nations delegation held talks with the government of President Najibullah here Monday [26 March] on the possibility of setting up peace zones for Afghan refugees to return home, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The topic was raised at a meeting between the delegation, led by chief coordinator of U.N. aid to Afghanistan Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, and Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil, the spokesman said.

Areas free of major conflict could be declared peace zones for refugees to return, he added. Most fighting is now concentrated in areas bordering Pakistan, where the mujahidin rebel leadership fighting to overthrow Mr. Najibullah is based. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government here was prepared to accept the peace zone proposal, but did not elaborate.

Prince Sadruddin's talks with officials here later Monday, including President Najibullah, were expected to concentrate on the refugee problem. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation including United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Thorvald Stoltenberg and the head of the World Food Programme (WFP), James Ingram.

The spokesman said the delegation would meet government officials connected with refugee repatriation and rehabilitation and members of the Red Cross. An estimated five million Afghans live as refugees in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran after fleeing fighting between Soviet and mujahidin troops.

Fierce fighting has continued since the Soviet troops withdrew more than a year ago, with the mujahidin describing Mr. Najibullah's administration as a Soviet puppet, and the refugees have not returned.

The spokesman listed conditions offered by Kabul for returning refugees, including the return of their property, a six month exemption from compulsory military service and transport to their homes. He said it was the Pakistan Government, not Kabul, that was creating obstacles in the way of refugee returns and accused Islamabad of violating the 1988 Geneva accords which paved the way for the Soviet withdrawal and committed Kabul and Pakistan not to interfere in each other's internal affairs. "We hope that the accords will be observed and interference will end so that the refugees can return," the spokesman said.

Prince Sadruddin's delegation began talks soon after arriving here on a bitterly cold Monday. The prince said on arrival that the visit—his first here since mid-1988—was technical and gave no substantive details about his agenda for talks. The delegation flew here on board a U.N. DC-9 from Islamabad where the prince had said in an interview that he was hopeful the U.N. mission in Afghanistan could be strengthened, and the return of the refugees hastened.

Najibullah Requests Increased Aid

LD2703101390 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Kabul, March 26, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA], received in his office today the United Nations high-ranking delegation headed by Sadruddin Agha Khan, organiser of UN economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and exchanged views on different issues related to the United Nations assistance to Afghanistan.

While appreciating the good efforts of United Nations and other international organisations for providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan, President Najibullah pointed out that it is high time that the United Nations should intensify its activities for the provision of the UN fast and effective assistance to Afghanistan.

Pointing to favourable and calm conditions in a great number of the RA provinces, President Najibullah drew the attention of the UN team to the immediate beginning of the UN humanistic assistance in the spheres of the return and refugees resettlement and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

President Najibullah stressed that the state of the Republic of Afghanistan is ready to prepare all possible facilities in regard to the UN efforts for rendering UN humanitarian aids to the people of Afgahnistan both in the areas controlled by the RA state or the regions which are under opposition's activity. Later on Sadruddin Agha Khan, informed President Najibullah on different aspects of UN activities and projects in Afghanistan.

The coordination of the UN aids to Afghanistan assured the president that UN has started extensive efforts for rendering effective aids to the people of Afghanistan in the fields of return and resettlement of the Afghan refugees and reconstruction of Afghanistan.

He added, in addition to the mentioned aids, the UN tries to set up peace zones and regions in some provinces of Afghanistan in order to facilitate return of the refugees from one hand and help restoration of peace and security in the Said areas on the other.

The report says that Dr. 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi, vice-president of the RA, M. Eshaq Tokhi, the president's aide and Sarwar Yurish, head of the Press Office of the Presidency, Stoltenberg and James Ingram were also present during the meeting.

Agreement on UN Assistance Signed

LD2703200790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister, signed a memo of understanding this afternoon at the Foreign Ministry with Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, UN coordinator for the humanitarian and economic assistance program. According to the memo, 50 million afghanis will be given to the newly established project to clear landmines.

According to another report, Soraya, secretary general of the Afghan Red Crescent Society, and His Excellency Prince Sadruddin Agha Khan, UN coordinator for the humanitarian and economic assistance program of Afghanistan, signed a memo in the Foreign Ministry in which 25 million afghanis will be used for assistance projects.

India

Reportage on Visit of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat

Arrives in Delhi 26 Mar

BK2603074490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The president of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day state visit to the country. Mr 'Arafat will have wide-ranging talks with the Indian leaders on bilateral and international issues, including west Asia.

Later, Mr 'Arafat called on the president, Mr. Venkataraman, at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House].

Discusses Kashmir With Singh

BK2603155690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] The president of Palestine, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, has reiterated that the Kashmir is a bilateral problem between India and Pakistan and hoped that it will be solved within the framework of the Simla agreement. Mr. 'Arafat, now on a three-day state visit to India, conveyed this to the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, during his discussions in New Delhi today. Mr. V.P. Singh expressed gratitude for the stance taken by Mr. 'Arafat. The prime minister said that the Simla agreement has provided a good and useful basis for India-Pakistan relationship, and most of the international community have also shown understanding and appreciated the stand taken by India.

President Hosts Banquet

BK2703031290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] India has strongly criticized Pakistan for actively encouraging and abetting terrorism and secessionist activities against this country and warned that it will never tolerate interference in its internal affairs. Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Palestinian president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, in New Delhi yesterday, the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, said India is however prepared to discuss all its bilateral problems with Pakistan within the framework of the Simla agreement. He said Pakistan's attitude toward India's consistent efforts to promote peace and stability in this region is disappointing. India cherishes the values of tolerance, secularism, peaceful coexistence, democracy and respect for individual freedom. These are not negotiable. Mr. Venkataraman said these constitute our identity and our vision for a peaceful and cooperative world order.

Expressing India's solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just struggle, Mr. Venkataraman voiced India's opposition to the Israeli plan to settle Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories. Mr. Venkataraman reiterated India's stand that there can be no durable peace in West Asia without a just and comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem leading to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. He said India's firm support for the Palestinian people is an abiding national commitment and will remain so until they have achieved their cherished goal.

In his reply, Mr. 'Arafat expressed deep concern at India-Pakistan relations and offered to contribute to any effort to maintain friendly relations and continuation of dialogue between the two countries. He hoped that a solution will be arrived at on the basis of international law and the Simla agreement.

The Palestine leader said he valued India's policy of good-neighborliness and creative cooperation among the states. Mr. 'Arafat appreciated India's policy of supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people and their uprising.

Supports Conference on West Asia

BK2703085890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The Palestine president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, was today conferred the honorary degree of doctor of science. The degree was conferred on him by the vice chancellor of the Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr. S.Z. Qasim, at a special convocation in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. 'Arafat appreciated India's policy of supporting the Palestinian struggle. The Palestinian president called for convening an international peace conference on West Asia to bring peace in the region.

Mr. 'Arafat praised the role of Indian universities in educating the Palestinian students.

Receives Award; Meets With Singh

BK2703161190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The prestigious Jawahar Lal Nehru Award for International Understanding was conferred on President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine at a glittering ceremony at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi today. Presenting the award, Mr. Venkataraman said that Mr. Yasir 'Arafat symbolizes the fire for freedom which illuminates the spirit of his people. In his welcome address, the vice president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said Mr. 'Arafat's courage and sincerity have won him international support and sympathy for the injustice suffered by his people.

Receiving the award, Mr. 'Arafat criticized the American Administration for continuing to ignore the rights of the Palestinian people. He said his people are determined to be generous in sacrifices and tenacious in defiance, no matter how big or costly these sacrifices will be.

Later, addressing a press conference, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, said that there is no comparison between the Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied Arab territories and developments in Kashmir. He gave an account of the atrocities and crimes committed by the Zionists against the Palestinians. He said the intifadah is a struggle for a democratic government where the Jews, Muslims, and Christians can live together peacefully. He said the intifadah is a struggle against Zionism and neocolonialism with secular and democratic objectives.

The Palestine leader had another round of discussions with the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, during the day. Mr. 'Arafat explained at length the aims and objectives of the intifadah and underlined that it is not a religious movement.

Expressing concern over the prevailing tension in relations between India and Pakistan, Mr. 'Arafat said that as a friend he would continue to do whatever possible to bring the two countries closer. Mr. 'Arafat said a solution to the Kashmir problem has to be found on the basis of the Simla agreement.

Leaves for Calcutta 28 Mar

BK2803065290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The Palestine president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, today left for Calcutta at the end of his two-day state visit to the capital., He was given an affectionate send-off at the Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] by the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, and the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, and his Cabinet colleagues.

Talking to newsmen, Mr. 'Arafat said that his visit will give a great push forward to the people of Palestine in their struggle for a homeland. He lauded the role of India in the freedom struggle of Namibia and release of Nelson Mandela, and hoped that India's support will continue till the Palestinians achieve their independence. About Indo-Palestinian relations, Mr. 'Arafat said these are genuine, strong, and concrete.

Army Fires on 'Mob' at Kashmir Border; 2 Die

BK2803160290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Two people were killed when security forces opened fire on a mob which attempted to cross over from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in Keran sector of the Kashmir Valley this morning [28 March]. A Defense Ministry spokesman said that about 100 civilians gathered at village Rohta in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir near the line of control and starting shouting anti-India slogans. They then moved toward the line of control along the Rohta Nala [canal]. Despite being warned by our troops to desist, some persons crossed the line of control. The security forces then opened fire, as a result of which two persons were killed about 200 meters inside the control line. The remaining people ran away.

In this context, a senior official of the External Affairs Ministry conveyed to the Pakistan high commissioner in New Delhi, Mr. Bashir Babar, India's serious concern and deep anxiety over the repetition of such incidents which can have tragic consequences. The Indian high commissioner in Islamabad has conveyed a similar message to the Pakistan foreign secretary, Mr. Tanvir Ahmad.

According to an official press release in New Delhi, such incidents are the direct outcome of inflammatory statements that continue to be made at the highest levels in Pakistan and are a direct incitement to rash, irrational, and dangerous behavior.

'Large Cache' of Arms Seized at Pakistani Border

BK2703160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The Border Security Force [BSF] has seized a large cache of arms from some intruders in the Ranbirsinghpura sector of the India-Pakistan border in Jammu. The intruders were challenged by the BSF near (Kurotana) village, but they escaped into the Pakistani territory, leaving behind arms and ammunition. The cache had seven Sten guns, five pistols, and a large quantity of ammunition which included 10 kilograms of explosives, 20 detonators with fuse wires, and timber.

Singh Calls For Consensus on Major Issues

BK2303124290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 23 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister today asserted that the government will never compromise on the country's economic independence and will take harsh measures if need be. Replying to the discussion on the motion of thanks on the president's address in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr. V.P. Singh declared that the country will not

be allowed to fall into the debt trap, and the mounting import bill will be curbed. He pointed out that the economy was in a very bad shape when his government took over. The prime minister said through prudent management of the economy his government has brought down the budget deficit from 13,790 crore rupees to 11,750 crores during the current year.

Outlining the measures initiated on important issues, the prime minister said the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations on backward classes will start this year itself. Among other legislative measures to be introduced this year, he said, are the devolution of powers to panchayats [village councils], reservation for women in local bodies, constitutional amendment on right to work, electoral reforms, and the participation of labor in management.

Earlier during the day, the prime minister made a fervent appeal to all political parties to extend full cooperation to solve the major problems of the country. He said issues of national importance like Jammu and Kashmir should be viewed above party lines. Mr. V.P. Singh said our aim should be to evolve consensus on major issues through consultations.

The prime minister maintained that there are differences of opinion between the ruling National Front and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] on Article 370 [granting special status to Kashmir], but this is based on understanding of each other's perceptions. He said the BJP and the left parties are extending support to the minority government because they support our policies and programs. The prime minister will continue his reply on Monday.

Minister Says Kashmir Situation 'Very Serious'

BK2703162390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, reiterated in the Rajya Sabha today the government's total commitment to maintaining the territorial integrity and unity of the country. He said it is determined to foil the sinister designs of secessionist and subversive elements in the Kashmir Valley and the forces operating from across the border. Mufti was making a statement on the situation in Kashmir.

Describing the situation in the valley as very serious, the home minister appealed to all to rise above party considerations to tackle it. He assured the members that the center is providing all possible assistance to the state government. He, however, pointed out that open encouragement from a neighboring country through assistance in the form of arms and training has given a boost to subversive activities in the valley. India has concrete evidence on this. The recent public pronouncements of the leaders of that country also added to the gravity of the situation.

Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said there has been a fresh spurt in violent incidents and killings of innocent persons. Militants are trying to create a fear psychosis among the people. As a result, over 25,000 families have migrated to Jammu and Delhi. The home minister said firm and resolute measures are required to effectively contain secessionism and win back the people's confidence. The center is fully alive to the situation and has taken several measures. Over 100 subversives have been apprehended and action taken against 30 government servants.

Replying to the clarifications sought by members, the home minister has instructed police and paramilitary forces to prevent infiltration across the border in Jammu and Kashmir. Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said that the state administration has also been told not to harass innocent persons. Pointing out that here is hardly any political activity in the state, the home minister urged all political parties to involve people in the valley to fight against terrorists. Referring to the safety of the political leaders, the minister said 129 leaders in the state are being given full protection.

The home minister was continuing his reply when reports last came in.

Earlier, seeking clarifications, members expressed grave concern over the situation in the Kashmir Valley and called for concrete steps by the government to control terrorist violence. Some Congress-I members said the National Front government is completely unaware of what is happening in Kashmir and wanted revival of the [state] assembly to renew the political process in the state.

Views Revival of State Assembly

BK2803031690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] The home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has said the question of revival of the state assembly in Jammu and Kashmir has been referred to the Law Ministry for an opinion. He said it is a legal matter and can be decided only under the provisions of the Constitution.

Replying to the clarifications sought by the members on his statement in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed said firm action is being taken against the subversives and steps are also being taken to win over the confidence of the people. He admitted that there has been an infiltration of antinational elements in the police forces and the administration, and action has been taken against 30 officials. He assured the house that there will be a further screening. The minister reiterated that the situation in Kashmir is not communal. He elaborated the steps being taken to provide relief to the migrants from the valley.

The home minister said paramilitary forces have been deployed to protect the public undertakings and banks.

He said there is an open involvement by Pakistani authorities by creating funds for the Kashmiri militants. He said the government is fully alive to the situation.

The Bharatiya Janata Party has categorically said that it will neither support talks for the revival of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly nor will it support a dialogue with the militants. Talking to newsmen in Calcutta yesterday, the party's all-India general secretary, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, said those who encourage secessionism should be dealt with firmly.

In Jammu and Kashmir, several political, social, and cultural organizations have issued a joint appeal to the people for maintaining peace and traditional communal harmony in the state. The appeal was issued after a meeting of representatives of these organizations held in Jammu yesterday evening under the chairmanship of the governor, Mr. Jagmohan. The Janata Dal leaders—Mr. Rafiq Hussain Khan, Chaudhry Talib Hussain, and Thakur Puran Singh—have also appealed to the people of Jammu not to believe in rumors, but cooperate with the administration in restoring normalcy.

Meanwhile, the curfew imposed on Tuesday [27 March] continues in the old city areas of Jammu. Paramilitary forces and the state police are patrolling the sensitive areas. Examinations scheduled in the Jammu division for today have been postponed.

The situation in Kashmir Valley is peaceful. Meanwhile, security forces nabbed six militants, two of them hard core, yesterday during raids in their hideouts.

Singh To Visit Amritsar for All-Party Rally

BK2503063090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, will visit Amritsar on the 13th of next month—the Baisakhi [local Punjabi festival] day. He will attend an all-party rally to be held at the Jalianawala Bagh to commemorate the massacre of hundreds of innocent people by the British rulers about 70 years ago.

The prime minister told this to newsmen at a reception hosted by the former president, Giani Zail Singh in honor of his predecessor Mr N. Sanjjiva Reddy, in New Delhi yesterday.

Prime Minister on Investigation of Bofors Issue

BK2403084890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, has said that the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] has successfully completed the first stage of investigations into the Bofors gun deal by freezing bank accounts of those involved in Swiss banks. He was speaking to newsmen after the civil investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] in New Delhi this morning.

Mr. V.P. Singh said that the CBI has done a commendable job in just two months. Asked why the case was delayed, he said the judicial process in Sweden takes time and we cannot dictate to the judiciary. Both his government and the judiciary in Sweden are seized with the matter and what the previous government could not do in the last three years has been accomplished by the present government in just 3 months, he said.

The prime minister declined to comment on the reports pertaining to the Hindujas, as he felt that it was not fair to do so since the investigations are on. He said the previous government stands exposed on the issue and the big question that exposes it is why it did not do it as the present government has proven. [sentence as heard]

Answering a question about Mr. Devi Lal's action in appointing a new secretary to the Janata Dal parliamentary board in place of Mr. Ajit Singh, Mr. V.P. Singh said that he does not express party matters outside the party forum.

Iran

U.S. Senate Recognition of Jerusalem Assailed

LD2803113390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Following the U.S. Senate's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the regime occupying Jerusalem, in a statement, the Foreign Ministry of our country has condemned the recent U.S. Senate resolution and the role played by that country in encouraging the expansionist appetite of the Zionist regime. The statement called on the entire Islamic and international communities and Muslim and freedom-seeking nations of the world to combat the plots hatched by world arrogance, led by America, by continuing to support the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people.

The statement reads: While the uprising of the revolutionary Muslims against the Zionist regime, inside the outside occupied Palestine, gains more ground and momentum every day, the concerted plots hatched by world arrogance, aimed at trampling on the legitimate rights of the Palestinian nation and protecting and safeguarding the Zionist in the lands, have reached new heights.

The statement assures: The recent approval of the U.S. Senate for recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, which coincides with U.S. Government financial assistance to the Zionist regime in housing Jewish immigrants in the occupied lands, is fresh evidence of such plots and signifies the ineffectiveness of the compromises made by Palestinian political groups to persuade America and Israel to acknowledge the minimal rights of the Palestinians.

In conclusion, the statement stresses: The only way to regain the usurped rights of the Palestinian nation and the Islamic peoples is to continue the struggle against the occupying Zionist regime until the annihilation of that

regime and the complete liberation of occupied Palestine. Any attempt at compromise and to recognize it is treason to Islam and the Islamic peoples and to sacred goals of the Palestinian nation.

Azerbaijan, Armenia Urged To End Violence

LD2803083590 Tehran IRNA in English 0730 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 28, IRNA—Leaders of the Soviet Azerbaijan and Armenia republics should immediately put an end to acts of violence and bloodshed and turn to political settlement, said the English-language daily TEHRAN TIMES in its editorial Wednesday.

Referring to the recent untoward developments in relations between Soviet Azeris and Armenians, the English daily regretted "the two ethnic groups do not even appear ready to utilize the favourably political situation now prevailing in the USSR after 70 years of political repression." It added, "they are failing to benefit from the ongoing sweeping changes in the union in securing their own national interests."

The paper believed, "both Azeris and Armenians should by now have realized that the method of peaceful struggle as adopted by the Baltic states of Lithuania and Estonia has so far been more successful than other approaches and has created greater sympathy for them in the world."

It stressed, "both Azeris and Armenians should realize that the leaders of the conservative and totalitarian factions in Moscow will take the most advantage of this meaningless enmity between the two republics."

"Besides, internecine wars between ethnic races and nationalities is unacceptable to any central government," the daily continued.

"Continuation of violence and bloody clashes only justifies Moscow's use of force to quell the disturbances," concluded the daily.

Shabazi, Delegation Return From Pakistan

NC2503085290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Brigadier-General Shahbazi, chief of the joint staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who went to Pakistan at the head of a high-ranking military delegation, returned to Tehran at midnight last night.

During his seven-day visit, Brig.-Gen. Shahbazi met with Pakistan's president, prime minister, minister of state for defense, the commanders of the three forces, and the chief of the joint staff of the Pakistan Armed Forces. He inspected military and arms centers in Islamabad and Karachi.

Speaking at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport, Brig.-Gen. Shahbazi described this trip as extremely useful and of importance to the consolidation of relations and the expansion of joint cooperation between Iran and Pakistan. He said: The conclusion we reached during this trip was that the two countries can complement each other as far as education and the defense industry are concerned and that they can supply many of their arms needs through joint projects.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With New Zealand

LD2503140890 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] Tehran, March 25, IRNA—Iran and New Zealand have inked a letter of understanding for economic, technical, educational and research cooperation.

The letter was signed by Iranian Agriculture Minister Issa Kalantari, who is in Wellington to participate in the third Iran-New Zealand joint economic commission, and New Zealand's Minister of External Relations and International Trade Michael Moore.

Expansion of mutual trade cooperation, transfer of technology, creation of balance in bilateral trade exchanges, implementation of joint industrial, mining and agricultural projects, and setting up of post graduate courses for the Iranian students in agricultural, technical and humanities fields have been included in the letter.

*Report on 20 February Majles Session

90OI0194A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Feb 90 pp 5, 8

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemyan and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Bayat. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, deputies Tajgardun of Gachsaran and Hashem-Zehi of Khash spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its session.

RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent reports that the first item on the agenda was continued consideration of the bill for aid to those who made sacrifices in the Islamic revolution and the imposed war.

The second and final agenda item was the presentation of the National Budget Bill for 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] by the president of the republic.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and the detailed proceedings.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in presenting the National Budget Bill for 1369 to the Majles, made some remarks which are presented in detail below.

At the beginning of his talk, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Praise God that the Budget has given me an opportunity to visit my friends and esteemed colleagues.

This is the first time the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has presented a budget to the Majles that is based on long-term planning, and this is made possible by the great efforts that have been made in the past. The Majles, the government, the Council of Guardians, and the former government worked, and praise God, today we have the first Five-Year Plan in our revolutionary government. The negative point is that as we begin the first plan we are without his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified), for he was concerned about this issue. You will remember that in those days when the policies of the plan were being discussed, he assigned the job of compiling them to the Supreme Reconstruction Council and then he himself approved them. It is a strong point in our work that the policies were approved by his holiness the imam during his lifetime. Another strong point is that the policies were initiated by our great leader, who was chief of the Supreme Reconstruction Council in those days and had been delegated by his holiness the imam. Another of the plan's distinctions is that both the leadership of the past and the existing leadership had a hand in its policies. Of course we must not imagine that this plan we have and have used as the basis for this year's budget is without faults and defects. It is our first plan, we are new at it, and secondly, no plan is without defects, and the budget we have brought is based on this same plan. We tried to write the budget within the framework of the plan and not to change it, or only very little if necessary. Our expectation is that the respected deputies will put most of their effort into seeing that this budget conforms with the plan, and if the Majles, the government, and others all guard the implementation of the plan, we will be able to have a proper government in our country. Of course the way is also open and if defects are seen, they can be amended. In any case it is an ordinary law and can be amended, but let us all focus, God willing, on the full implementation of the plan. We ourselves in the government, in addition to the responsibility the Plan and Budget Organization has of overseeing implementation, are planning to form a group to provide assistance to me and the Plan and Budget Organization of evaluating and decisively pursuing the plan's implementation, and the respected deputies can also provide us with much assistance in determining whether the plan is being implemented or not. God willing we will do this. We hope that this plan will be followed in this year's budget discussion.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Before I undertake an examination of the budget's prominent points, which I have written down and will read along with statistics and figures, I think it would be a good idea to mention some points concerning the budget and the plan. Domestically, we are in a good position to implement the plan, in that all the insiders now certainly believe in the plan. In the work environments there were always complaints about the lack of a plan, and now they have hope. The work force connects with this task, and in our country we need more work and activity to overcome the problems produced by the war, revolutionary conditions, and the past. That is, it is now in the nation's interest to pursue seriously the work of implementing the plan, and the discussions that have been held about the plan have created a psychological climate where the plan has become a positive step and an inevitable necessity. In our society, with regard to stabilizing the position of the government, the gentlemen know the conditions. The time is right, although we have not gotten out of the war, but things are very different for us than when we were in the thick of the war, and we think it very, very unlikely that the enemy will open fire again, because the experiences of the past have done them no good, but in any case the roots of the war are in the country, and the general belief is that we must look to our defense. This is because of these very conditions of neither war nor peace, although the effects of the war are still visible in the budget and the plan, and the budget we prepared, which was large to begin with, was increased in the Majles. In any case, however, it is very different from the past, that is the budgets that were presented here in the past were entirely under the influence of the war, but it is not this way now, to an extent it is affected by war issues, but fortunately in the figures and statistics you will see that education has taken over the priority that had been given to the war. In this plan, culture and higher education, education and training, and professional training now have first priority. This is a positive point that shows our direction.

With regard to international conditions, the situation is somewhat different. In my view our enemies (every kind) domestic, foreign, those who do not want Islam to succeed, those who are trying to say that the age of religious domination, especially Islam, has passed, certainly do not want this plan to succeed. We must not believe for a moment that those who are our enemies will give up their adventurism, even if they claim they will do so if Iran undertakes to rebuild itself, sees to its own affairs, and forgets about its revolutionary message. Even those who are saying these very things are lying. They certainly do not want the Islamic Republic of Iran, with its essential nature, to succeed in implementing its plan. We must not hold out any hope for help and cooperation in the true sense from foreign countries. Of course if we are talking about the outside, there may be friends who are prepared to cooperate with us, or there may be people who do not think this way and who are not friends or enemies, but those who are opposed to us and have been opposed to us from the beginning and are so today, who mainly have an imperialist essence, these people not only will not cooperate, but they will sabotage us in any way they can.

A point that has been made before and I repeat now is that efforts have been made in this plan and in matters related to the Five-Year Plan and it must be implemented in such a way that what is related to contemporary life, and the goals of this plan must not in any way rely on resources beyond our own. We have items in the Five-Year Plan for which we must make use of foreign resources, but those are things whose effects will have to be clarified later. That is we will not see the results of

what they produce in this plan. For example, the dams that are in the plan or that section pertaining to oil, gas, and petrochemicals, each one of them that begins during this plan will entail a certain burden in our interest, meaning that we must expend some resources to carry them out, and we will have to see the results in later years.

As the gentlemen know, the world is moving towards a single-pole orientation and a great many of the opportunities that existed in the world for the independent nations to make use of the conflicts between the great powers are being lost. These conflicts to an extent are being converted to a kind of mutual understanding that chiefly serves to give a free hand to those who are hostile towards us and are in conflict with us. Of course, the positive points here are significant in their own right. These freedoms, liberations of nations, and the unleashing of a wave of destruction of the emblems of suffocation have such powerful and profound effects in the nations of the world that the effects are positive even for countries like us wishing to live independently. They are especially beneficial for countries that rely on their people, and if we make use of these benefits we can compensate for the negative effects, and beyond that even gain from it. In any case we now feel that we are moving in the direction of a tumor, the world is moving in the direction of a tumor, despite the fact that it is the age of nations and, and we fortunately are in the forefront with reliance on our people, just as you saw that lovely manifestation on 22 Bahman [11 February] in our country and which shamed those who thought otherwise and revealed the unfounded nature of many of their analyses.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: What I expect to have happen will create a situation in the future where they will mainly seek to dominate the world through warfare with economic, technical, and material means. They may now see little need to pursue the methods of the past such as coups d'etat and the various forms of sabotage they had in the world (except in exceptional cases). The way they think now is that the money, the centers of power, and the technical power are in their hands and that countries that are not their satellites and whose lives are not dependent on them to a great extent cannot compete in the world. Wherever they wish they apply pressure and right there they take the other side by the throat until it surrenders. We certainly feel the effects of this ourselves. Just in the last month we have seen that they will be following such a policy. Although it is the nature of capitalism in the capitalist world that the capitalists even in one pole compete, this is not a serious probability. It is possible in places like the Common Market and those special groups (just as you have seen happen in the last year or two), their interests will dictate that they now cooperate with one another. Another necessity of the current situation is that to a degree it is sapping their will. It is not as if they can do whatever they wish and proceed according to plan whenever they want. We certainly must not allow pessimism to take over our own view of ourselves and imagine that they have closed off all avenues. During the war we saw that in the worst circumstances when no one was as isolated as we were, we were able to manage the tools we had here belonging to the Americans, who are our most serious enemy, including advanced aircraft and rockets that they had totally embargoed in the world.

The nature of capitalism is such that many loopholes can be found and it is not as if they can impose whatever they wish on the world through this means. Planning is necessary for us. We must prepare ourselves, we must have a plan and be sure that we put this era behind us in a good way. In any case, it is possible that in the future they will put economic and technical pressure on governments and activities by countries not molded in their image, and we must pass through this stage in a good way. One place where it is possible to pass between the important nations of the world is this very Iran. Certainly, with the existence that we have, our manpower, our management, our natural resources, or political experience, this aggregate we have available, in any case our relations with other nations and the resources we have in this (within the limits of this plan we now have), we think it is practical for us to implement our plan, and if we implement this plan carefully, our situation at the end of the plan will be very different than it is now. With the new situation we will be able to prepare for the second plan and that will be the ideal position. The experiences of the war and the embargo can be entirely useful and constructive for our future. Contrary to statements that are sometimes made that the plan is pie in the sky, I deeply believe that the plan was written in view of these very constraints, that is it was noted that we do not have a free hand in the world, it was noted that they are our enemies, it was noted that they will not cooperate with us, for their own interests. If a country with our resources and strategic position wanted to design a fanciful plan, it could have been far more unrealistic than this. If we were prepared to compromise with the world's imperialist powers, we could have made the plan much more extensive, and it might have progressed much more rapidly. Of course it could have had negative side effects from other directions, but what we now have in the plan we certainly believe to be within our resources and that we can do this with the resources we have. Of course it requires coordination, empathy, friendship, perseverance, and a willingness for discipline among the people. We must expect from our people the same support and extra work to prepare us to put this era of reconstruction behind us. The period of reconstruction after a war has not been one of ease and comfort in any country. Such a thing is impossible. Wherever there has been a period of reconstruction, it was a time of austerity and extra work. The differences depend on the amount of destruction, the amount of need, and their international position. If a nation is on good terms with the dominant economic powers, it can solve its reconstruction problems much more easily. If a nation wants to rebuild itself independently, its period of reconstruction will be longer and the likelihood of austerity will be

greater. This is relative, it depends on the circumstances that arise. Our nation must certainly be prepared, at least during the Five-Year Plan, not to expect comfort and a balance between supply and demand everywhere. We may see to the needs of some sectors quickly because they depend on domestic and oil resources. We may see to the needs of other sectors more slowly. The virtue of the plan is that it has coordinated things so that one sector will not collapse entirely while another moves way ahead. We will advance in a balanced way so that, God willing, this will be accomplished.

Then Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed the special characteristics of the National Budget Bill for 1369. He said:

Highlights of the National Budget Bill for 1369

Just as was mentioned, the most important attribute of the National Budget Bill for 1369 is its design within the framework of the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Economic, Cultural, and Social Expansion Plan. The most recent accomplishment was the coordination of estimates in the first Five-Year Plan and the outcome of the expenses and costs in the government's general budget for 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. Based on this information, tax revenues in the first 10 months of the current year [21 March 1989-20 January 1990] compared to the same period the previous year increased 21.2 percent, and this figure is more than 98.3 percent of the figure projected for the first 10 months of the first year of the Five-Year Plan. Likewise, other government revenues in the first 10 months of the year 1368 were about 3.5 times that of the same period the previous year, and are roughly equivalent to the projected revenues for the first 10 months of the first year of the Five-Year Plan. A similar trend can be seen in expenditures. Current expenses (not counting defense buildup expenditures) in the first 10 months of the current year compared to the same period the previous year increased 12.2 percent and are 95 percent of the figure projected for the first 10 months of the first year of the Five-Year Plan. Development expenditures grew more than 55 percent compared to the same period the previous year and that figure is one-eighth of a percent higher than the amount projected for the first 10 months of the first year of the Five-Year Plan. During this period, the government borrowed 1,015 billion rials from the banking system, a 37 percent decrease compared to the same period the previous year, about the amount expected.

In the continuation of this same work, sufficient efforts have been made so that the figures for next year's budget bill will be properly coordinated in the notes, the revenues section, and the costs section with the goals, policies, and figures included in the first Five-Year Plan. Likewise, in view of the government's goal of reducing the budget deficit, government borrowing from the banking system in the coming years is reflected within the framework of the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Economic, Cultural, and Social Expansion Plan and has received ample affirmation from the respected Majles. The above coordination has been taken into consideration with regard to the 1369 budget deficit and carried out.

Another important attribute of the National Budget Bill for 1369 is attention to the deprived and slow-growth areas, and this is one of the prominent and basic aspects of the policies and directions that were considered in preparing and designing the first Five-Year Plan. Studies to identify the deprived areas undertaken in the years after the revolution, especially after the year 1362 [21 March 1983-20 March 1984] were carried out in a serious and practical way in the Plan and Budget Organization and they reached some relatively specific conclusions in the second phase of the sixth stage, and based on those studies 11 different economic and social geographic areas were identified as under-utilized. Based on these conclusions, under Note Five of the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Economic, Cultural, and Social Expansion Plan, the government is required in the years of the plan to raise the level of use of 212 of the nation's geographic districts—which were identified in the above studies as deprived in the areas of public education and training, rural electricity, rural roads, rural health services, and procurement of potable water—up to the same level of use of the rest of the country in the year 1368. In the implementation of the provisions of this note, based on the studies that were undertaken, in the course of the Five-Year Plan a total of 229.1 billion rials will be invested in this matter as follows, 90.6 billion rials for education and training, 36.3 billion rials for health treatment and health care, 21.8 billion rials for rural electricity, and 80.4 billion rials for rural roads. The distribution of the above credits during the Five-Year Plan for the year 1369 will be 40 billion rials. Of course it is necessary to mention that the aforementioned credits are in addition to credits that have been allocated to areas such as this in the economic and social sectors during the Five-Year Plan with priority for the deprived areas. At the same time executive policies, procedures, and specific directions have been provided in the Five-Year Plan to procure, maintain, and expand skilled manpower in the deprived areas, and to encourage production and to channel industrial and agricultural investment to the deprived areas. It is hoped that with the implementation of these provisions, the face of the deprived areas will gradually be wiped clean of the dust of poverty, deprivation, and underdevelopment and that production and economic foundations will be strengthened and will flourish in these areas.

Here I deem it necessary to mention briefly the other principal characteristics of the National Budget Bill for 1369:

A. Notes:

Thanks to the conditions following the imposed war and the necessity to rebuild the country, efforts were made to the extent possible to compile the notes in such a way that the executive organizations would have as much

discretion as possible in the execution of their responsibilities and so that in general the discretion of the executive power would not be restricted.

The necessary efforts were made to have full coordination between the notes of the National Budget Bill for 1369 and the policies and goals of the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Economic, Cultural, and Social Expansion Plan.

Since the notes of the budget can only be implemented and are only effective for one year, that group of notes therefore had a perpetual quality and for this reason they were repeated every year in the budget bills. They have been deleted from the National Budget Bill for 1369 and will be submitted separately for this reason to the Majles (such as notes 12 and 13).

The detailed and lengthy notes of past years have been designed as clear and expressive tables, which will be presented to the Majles as a part of the National Budget Bill for 1369 (such as Note 15).

In view of the enactment of the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Economic, Cultural, and Social Expansion Plan, in which all the credit needed by the sectors is provided in its sections and plans, to the extent possible efforts have been made to avoid notes that allocate funds separately and apart from the sections and plans.

B. General Budget Revenues

Revenues for the National Budget Bill for 1369 have been estimated at 4,009.7 billion rials, a 27.3 percent increase over the projected amount for 1368. Of this amount, 40.5 percent is from tax revenues, 27.2 percent is from oil revenues, and 32.3 percent is from other revenues.

Tax revenues for 1369, in view of the arrangements provided in the framework of the first plan, have been estimated at 1,623.7 billion rials, an increase of 41.1 percent over the projected amount for the current year. Thus the percentage of gross domestic production taken by tax revenues, which has been on the decrease in recent years, increased from 4.5 percent in 1368 to 5.5 percent in 1369. This percentage, based on projections made in the first plan, will increase to 8.4 percent in the year 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994] (the final year of the plan).

Likewise, the percentage of current expenses taken up by tax revenues, which is an important indicator for evaluating the government's financial condition, increased from 28.8 percent in 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989] to 35.5 percent in 1368 and will reach 40.9 percent in 1369.

Tax revenues, apart from their volume, have also improved with respect to their composition, and the share of direct taxes in the total of all taxes, which is expected to be about 60.8 percent in 1368, will increase to 62.5 percent in 1369. In the same regard, in the continuation of policies of recent years, and in order to make the tax system as just as possible, employment taxes [maliat-e mashaghel] next year have been doubled in relation to the amount projected for 1368, and the employment taxes will be 2.2 times that of salary taxes [maliat-e hoquq].

Gas and oil revenues in the National Budget Bill for 1369 have been estimated at 1,089.6 billion rials, an increase of 21 percent over the amount projected for the current year. A significant point is that in 1369, for the first time in recent years, gas revenues have been added to the figure for government revenues. The revenues from this source in 1369 are expected to be about 20 billion rials, which in view of predictions made in the first plan in the years ahead will show an increase, to reach 43 billion rials in 1372. Likewise, in the framework of oil and gas revenues, next year's revenues from the export of oil by-products are estimated at 40.4 billion rials, an increase of more than 123.5 percent over the projected amount for the current year.

The government's other revenues for 1369 are estimated at 1,377.7 billion rials, and although this is an increase of 25.2 percent over the projected figure for 1368, in view of the mechanisms that are provided in the first plan and next year's budget, it is hoped that this figure will be achieved.

C. General Budget Expenses

1 - Current Expenses

Current expenses in the National Budget Bill for 1369 in the framework of the first plan in order to achieve the goals set out in this plan, have been estimated at 3,964.5 billion rials, an increase of 15.6 percent over the projected figure for 1368. The major part of the increase in current expenses for next year will be taken up by public, technical, and professional education and higher education, health care, and treatment, and social security. The current costs for the above sectors are expected to total 1,853 billion rials in 1369 (46 percent of all current expenses), an increase of more than 23 percent over 1368. Current expenses pertaining to government protection and the nation's domestic security, which account for more than six percent of all current expenses, will increase more than 42 percent over the year 1368. Not counting the major items listed above, current expenses for next year will only increase about four percent over the figure projected for 1368, and this really represents a continued decline in these costs at fixed prices.

2 - Development Costs

In 1369 the government's development credits were estimated at 1,631.3 billion rials, a striking increase of 20.2 percent over the figure projected for 1368.

The basic tendency in the distribution of the government's development credit in 1369 was toward the procurement of investment resources needed to create

physical capacities for education and health care, the expansion of water and soil resources, and equipping fundamental resources, especially communications needs. In this regard, in 1369 there will be an increase in public education and training and development costs of 154 percent, 91 percent for health care and treatment, technical and professional training 75 percent, higher education 45.4 percent, agriculture 58.7 percent, water resources 88.3 percent, and roads and transportation 71.7 percent over the same figures for 1368. The share of the total development credits taken by the sectors above was 45.7 percent in 1368, and this share will rise to 56 percent in 1369.

D. Budget for Government Companies, Banks, and Government-Owned Profitable Institutions

In view of the provisions of Note 2 of the National Budget Bill for 1369 and in the framework of the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Economic, Cultural, and Social Expansion Plan, and through the efforts of the relevant officials, the government companies and the structure of their budgets are given special characteristics in terms of quantity and quality compared to previous years.

1 - The resources and expenditures of government companies, banks, and government-owned profitable institutions have been estimated at 7,445.3 billion rials for 1369, and this represents a growth of 36 percent in comparison with the same figure for the current year.

2 - In view of the special inclination in the first plan towards the government companies and the use of all their resources and capabilities to advance the goals of this plan, and with the full equipping of all the resources of such economic foundations, in 1369 the government companies will utilize 1,472.8 billion rials of their own domestic resources with the use of the banking system and other investment resources within the framework of the sector's goals in the first plan, and this figure represents a growth of 42.3 percent over the same figure for the year 1368. Of this figure, 65.5 billion rials will be obtained by turning to the banking system.

3 - Taxes paid in 1369 by the government companies have been estimated at 91.7 billion rials, and the profits on their shares has been estimated at about 20.2 billion rials, and this represents a growth of about 8.3 and 24.2 percent respectively over the same period in 1368.

In conclusion, it is not inappropriate for me to mention some points about the government's executive plan in 1369 and to discuss the attributes and executive provisions of the Budget Bill in the various sectors.

1 - Agriculture:

The development credit provided for this sector in 1369 is about 160 billion rials, and this represents a growth of about 24 percent over the same period in 1368. The level of this increase in water and soil activities is about 40 percent, 107 percent in planting and industry, and about 103 percent in research and study. The chief activities taking place within the framework of these credits are as follows:

Water and soil activities to be carried out include the equalization of 150,000 hectares, irrigation of 242,000 hectares, the construction of 400 kilometers of forest roads, and the preparation of forest projects for 94,000 hectares.

With regard to livestock and poultry, the La'in poultry project has gone into operation, 1.5 million brucellosis tests have been given and 7.5 livestock vaccinations have been given, and 25 million head of livestock will be treated for parasites.

In agricultural activities, 26,000 tons of blue wheat and 145,000 tons of certified seed have been procured, and measures will be taken against wild grasses on 250,000 hectares and against June bugs on 1.5 million hectares.

2 - Water Resources:

In the framework of the Five-Year Plan, priority has been given to using capacities that have been created, including making use of about 3.5 billion cubic meters of water in dammed reservoirs, which is only possible through the use of irrigation networks and primary and secondary drainage.

In the plan priority has been given in the procurement of water for 1369 to completing the construction of dams that are underway, while provisions have been made toward the end of the plan for studies to begin new projects as ways to meet the goals of the second plan to procure water for agriculture and produce hydroelectric power.

In the plan for irrigation and drainage networks, in addition to the credits provided from government resources, which make up about 60 percent of the needed credits, about 40 percent of the credits will come from non-government resources, including the owners of lands that benefit from the creation of installations.

3 - Industries and Mines:

In view of the rial and foreign exchange credits provided, the rate of utilization of the nation's heavy industry production capacity in 1369 compared to 1368 will increase at least 39.5 percent.

The basic measures have been undertaken to bring the Sar Cheshmeh Copper Complex to capacity so that in addition to reaching the nation's domestic needs, most of the production from this complex will be exported.

In order to procure domestic needs, the existing capacity for the Arak Aluminium Industries has expanded, and operations have begun to build a factory with a capacity of 22,000 tons in the Province of Hormozegan.

In the framework of the credits provided, projects have begun for the production of large pumps and hydraulic

turbines, steam and gas turbines, large power station generators, heavy diesel motors, heavy electrical machinery, oil, gas and petrochemical equipment, rolling machinery, and casting machinery and foundry equipment for heavy parts.

With the implementation of investments provided, the projects for coal exploration in the Hejzak and Ashkoli areas, the completion of the exploration for Chegharat Iron ore, the final exploration for Kanar Miduk copper, equipping the iron ore mine in Chenareh and the expansion and increased capacity for the coal mines in Kerman and Karsang have been carried out and they are coming into operation.

4 - Commercial:

In order to procure the basic goods needed in 1369 provisions have been made to import about 10.4 million tons of goods.

The plans for next year in this sector include increasing and expanding exports of non-petroleum goods and reaching the goals set out in the first plan, and to obtain the foreign exchange revenues provided in the first plan, laws and regulations to provide incentives and guidance have been written, and there are provisions in next year's budget to pay foreign exchange capital to exporters. Likewise, producers are being encouraged to produce competitive goods, financial facilities are being provided for the import and export of goods in this regard, and policies are being adopted to elicit the cooperation of exporters.

5 - Oil:

The crude oil production capacity on land and on the continental shelf will increase to 3.57 million barrels per day.

Oil by-product exports, including furnace oil, naptha, liquid gas, and propane, will reach $407 billion in 1369, and this represents a growth of about 123 percent over projected figures for the current year.

Construction operations for the Arak and Bandar 'Abbas refineries are continuing, and when these two refineries come on line by the year 1372 the nation will no longer need to import petroleum by-products.

Construction operations for Phase 2 of the Kangan Projects will begin in the year 1369, and when this phase comes into operation in late 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992], 45 million cubic meters of natural gas per day will be added to the nation's gas production capacity.

6 - Gas:

The production of liquid natural gas in 1369 will increase 28 percent over the projected figure for 1368. Likewise, the surplus liquid natural gas will be exported.

The installation of gas service lines will increase 42.5 percent over 1368 to a total of 300,000 lines.

In 1369 about 830 kilometers of urban gas pipeline and 2,832 kilometers of urban gas line networks will be built and installed, and this represents a growth of about 51 percent and 31 percent respectively over the same period in 1368.

7 - Housing and Urban Development:

Of the credit provided, 5,424 worker and staff housing units will be built and completed throughout the country.

Thirty-eight projects to expand and equip urban drinking water installations will be continued and construction operations for 12 new projects in this area will begin.

Construction operations to build a sewage network for 50 cities are continuing, and construction operations to create networks for six cities are beginning.

Construction operations to build 12 bridges over domestic rivers in 12 cities, and beltline roads in five cities are beginning.

8 - Roads and Transportation:

From credits provided, work will begin on the construction of 1,800 kilometers of new main, secondary, and rural roads, as well as 2,610 kilometers of asphalt surface and the improvement of 528 kilometers of existing roads.

The quantity of freight and passengers moved by the Islamic Republic of Iran Railroads was 16 million tons and eight million persons, and measures will be taken to improve about 150 kilometers of existing track and to build 125 kilometers of new track.

In the areas of freight and air transportation about 5.5 million people will be transported domestically and 940,000 people will be transported internationally.

The amount of maritime freight transported by Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping will be about 13 million tons of goods, and this will be done by our own and by rented ships.

9 - Electricity:

In the framework of the plan's quantitative goals for 1369, construction operations will begin for about 6,000 megawatts of new power stations.

With the reconstruction of existing power stations and the utilization of new power stations, a total of 1,090 megawatts will be added to the nation's electrical power production capacity.

In the framework of the plan's goals, it has become possible to deliver electrical power to 2,000 new villages,

and a total of 500,000 new customers will be added to the existing customers for the electrical power industry.

10 - Post and Communications:

There are 300,000 telephones in operation throughout the country, and 730 inter-city public telephones will be installed along with 4,500 urban public telephones.

Cable communications have been established between 750 rural points and 2,000 telephones will be assigned to customers and telex applicants throughout the country.

There will be 250 transmitting stations, 700 telephone stations, and 95 money-wiring stations built.

Concerning dispatches, 250 million letters, eight million telegrams, and 10 million telephone calls were delivered.

11 - Public, Technical, and Professional Education and Training:

The number of students at all levels of study was more than 14.6 million persons in 1369, and compared to registrations in Mehr of 1368 [23 September-22 October 1989] this is an increase of five percent or 700,000 persons.

Out of the development credits provided, operations will continue building 16,670 classes under construction, and operations to build 22,200 new classes will begin. Likewise, next year operations will begin to build 10 new schools, 46 schools for exceptional children, and 17 teacher training centers.

The operations of the Literacy Crusade expanded further in 1369, and its credits will increase 45 percent over the the year 1368.

The number of scholars in various fields for intermediate, technical, and professional education will increase to 245,000 persons showing a growth of 9.3 percent, and likewise the number of students in vocational training in government institutions will increase 32 percent to a total of more than 30,000 persons.

Out of development credits from the technical and professional education section, construction operations have begun to build 40 new service and technical schools, 77 vocational training centers, 18 technical and professional training centers, and a technical, engineering, and agricultural college, and construction operations are continuing to build 60 technical colleges, agricultural training centers, agricultural and paramedical and dental and oral hygiene colleges.

12 - Higher Education and Research:

The number of undergraduate and graduate level students in 1369 is estimated to be about 226,000, and this represents a growth of about 5.5 percent over the year 1368. To teach these students, about 1,500 new faculty will be hired for the universities and institutions of higher education, and the total number of faculty will reach about 12,000.

The number of part-time students will reach 28,000, showing a growth of 90 percent in 1369.

With the implementation of existing projects, in 1369 it is estimated that capacity will be created to educate about 5,450 persons.

In 1369 investment activities will begin to create three research centers (the International Earthquake and Earthquake Engineering Study Center, the Center for Chemical and Chemical Engineering Studies, and the Khorasan Research Complex).

13 - Health Care and Treatment:

Measures will be taken to create, equip, and put into service 1,200 rural health care clinics, 280 urban and rural health care and treatment centers, 225 rural child delivery centers, 1,700 hospital beds, five blood transfer bases, and 1,500 projects to procure and pipe urban drinking water.

Construction operations will begin to build 33 hospital projects in the deprived areas with more than 3,000 beds and operations will continue towards full equipment for 5,000 health care beds that were begun in previous years.

14 - Social Security and Health Care:

Measures will also continue in 1369 to support 70,000 elderly persons over 60 years of age in rural areas, 360,000 families covered by the support services of the Better Living Organization and the Imam's Aid Committee, one million refugees from the imposed war, combatants, and families of martyrs.

Out of the development credits from this sector measures will be taken in 1369 to build 10 rehabilitation centers and 30 centers for housing and rehabilitation of the handicapped, and 55 centers for support services, preparation and utilization of the Hamadan Martyr Beheshti Rehabilitation Complex with a capacity of 200 beds.

15 - Culture and Information Dissemination:

In 1369 measures were taken to produce 4.4 million copies of books for children and adolescents, 150,000 cassette tapes, 500,000 constructive amusements, and 402 minutes of film.

Construction operations were completed to build two children's libraries, and construction operations will continue to build three more children's libraries and seven centers and seven culture and art centers and complexes.

Measures will be taken to broadcast 11,814 hours of programming on the networks of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and 82,716 hours of programming on the networks of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and these figures represent increases of 19 and 11 percent respectively over the same figures for 1368.

Measures will be taken to build eight field offices for the Islamic Republic News Agency in the cities of Abadan, Khorramshahr, Mehabad, Qazvin, Astara, Kashan, Zabol, and Karaj.

16 - Physical Training:

To provide training necessary for a strong presence at the Peking Asian Games in 1369, credits for the Iran National Olympic Committee have been quadrupled over the year 1368.

From the development credits provided from this sector, 597 sports projects will be carried out across the country.

As I conclude my remarks, I would like to thank again the respected Majles deputies for enacting the Islamic Republic of Iran's First Economic, Cultural, and Social Expansion Plan, and I am confident that the discussions and debates that the brother and sister deputies will hold to improve the quality of the Budget Bill, which is really next year's program for the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will be more useful and effective than ever. It is hoped that all the respected Majles commissions will create the necessary atmosphere to enrich society's planning culture as much as possible through careful consideration and by dealing with the problems and plans in the various economic and social sectors in cooperation with the relevant organizations.

Bahram Tajgardun, Representative of the People of Gachsaran

The first pre-agenda speaker at yesterday's public Majles session was Mr. Bahram Tajgardun, from the Gachsaran and Kohkiluyeh electoral district, who began his talk by paying his respects to the presence of the imam of the age (may God hasten his joyful advent), offering greetings to the pure spirit of his holiness the imam (may his grave be sanctified) and hoping for the success of the great position of the leadership.

He noted the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Mahallati and eight Majles deputies by Saddam's mercenary regime, and commemorated their memory.

He added: We celebrated the eleventh anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution without the physical presence of the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran in our midst. I commemorate his memory, we buy his guidance with our lives, and he curses those who dishonor his spirit.

His holiness the imam said repeatedly that the Majles is at the head of all affairs. The Majles is the center of all powers and decisions, the Majles is the essence of the nation's being. If we believe in this guidance and if we also believe in the Constitution, which holds the Majles deputies responsible for all affairs, whether domestic or foreign, we must regard reverence for the Majles and strengthening it as a religious and legal responsibility, for supporting it will mean the active presence of the people on the scene, and that will be a Majles that relies on the direct vote of the people, "You all vote and you are all responsible." [Koranic verse]

The speaker added: Now that the foundations of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been stabilized, all the ups, downs, and obstacles have been put aside, and we have seen the plots of foreign and domestic imperialist agents thwarted, the course of world politics, the collapse of communism, and the close cooperation and unification of East and West make it necessary that government officials, by preserving unity, independence, and territorial integrity, adopt policies with awareness that will strengthen liberation movements, the solidarity of the nation of Islam, and bring hope to the deprived and oppressed people of the world.

With regard to reconstruction he said: Now that, through the power and strength of God, the Five-Year Plan has received final approval, we must put all our effort into building the country, solving the problems of the people, and eliminating existing malfunctions, and this must be achieved by utilizing committed and specialist forces, making appropriate use of their technical knowledge, understanding the nation's potential resources, and paying attention to the matter of education and investment in the production sectors to achieve self-sufficiency.

The Gachsaran and Kohkiluyeh deputy discussed the problems and issues in his electoral district. He said: The Province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, which is one of the nation's deprived provinces, is unfortunately being ignored and treated unkindly by the officials. I would like to ask the respected chief of the judicial power to attend to the matter of the courts in the province, especially the Municipality of Kohkiluyeh, and while I thank him for sending the rotating judicial team [ekip-e qazayi-ye sayyar] to the province, I would like to say that the current organization and structure of the courts in the province is not an answer to the judicial problems and issues of the people. This tribal and deprived province needs an expanded judiciary. About six years ago the Ministry of Justice officials of that time announced that if a police department were established in the municipalities of Gachsaran and Kohkiluyeh, they would convert the justice of peace to a court. A police department has been established in Gachsaran and one will soon be opened in Kohkiluyeh. It is hoped that the judicial officials will keep their promise to establish a court in Gachsaran and Kohkiluyeh. Unfortunately, the municipality of Kohkiluyeh, with a population of more than 150,000 people, does not have a documents and deeds registry. The people are unhappy and desperate, and for this reason they are deprived of many of their benefits and clear rights.

He thanked the minister of the interior and the national chief of police for establishing the police department in Gachsaran and also for promising to help establish the police department in the municipality of Kohkiluyeh. He said: The people need the establishment of greater security in the province. In this regard I advise the relevant

officials to deal with the matter more seriously. It is necessary, in view of the extreme deprivation of the municipality of Kohkiluyeh, that greater and more careful attention be given to the political, administrative, and security problems of that municipality and that stronger political, construction, and judicial officials be employed. For more than two years the earthquake victims of Dahdasht have been homeless and unemployed. Despite the efforts of the officials of the Province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, and they are to be thanked for their efforts, unfortunately the officials of the Province of Khuzestan, who are responsible for building them shelter, are indifferent and sometimes obstructive. I expect the respected minister of the interior to deal with this matter seriously. I also ask that he deal with the flood victims in the Lengeh District, who have suffered great losses.

Mr. Tajgardun reminded the Ministry of Heavy Industries that they are behind schedule on promised delivery of the vehicles of 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] to applicants from the Province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, and that they should take the same measures taken in the other provinces.

He noted: In view of the fact that a great many students from the Province of Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad are studying in the nation's other universities due to the lack of a university in this province and have been forced or are being forced to abandon their studies because of unsatisfactory financial circumstances and the lack of a dormitory, it is proposed that the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education provide the necessary resources and financial aid for them to encourage them and provide greater motivation, and that the other executive organizations, while obtaining promises of future service and providing them with scholarships and study stipends, undertake to accept and support this concerned and committed group.

Mr. Tajgardun offered a proposal to create a deputy minister of the interior's position as chief of the Tribal Affairs Organization in the Ministry of the Interior, a proposal to create an independent province water organization, and other proposals to alleviate deprivation in this province, and he expressed thanks to all revolutionary groups who are sincerely striving to serve the people.

Hashem-Zehi, Representative of the People of Khash

Mr. Hashem-Zehi, Khash deputy, was the second and final pre-agenda speaker, and while mentioning the grand commemoration of the auspicious 10 days of Fajr [dawn], he said:

This year the 10 days of Fajr were celebrated by the oppressed and long-time devotees of the great leader of Islamic revolution in the Municipality of Khash and in the Mirjaveh and Nasrabad districts with passionate mourning for their late religious leader. However, to torment enemies, hypocrites, deviant thinkers, and detractors, each one of whom has plotted against our sacred Islamic revolution in the absence of our great imam and has been guided by foolish ideas believing that the revolution would only continue during the life of our late imam, the 10 days of Fajr celebration was carried with such zeal and enthusiasm by men and women, young and old, at the district and village centers that a celebration of such size has never been seen before, and there was such unity and understanding between the people and their officials that the people traveled kilometers to greet the guests participating in the celebration, and while holding the celebration and praising and remembering his holiness the imam, they commemorated his life from birth to death. This year, for the first time in the Baluchestan area, the girl students of Baluch came as a group to the arenas of the Islamic revolution to give talks and make declarations, and they shaped the epic of the revolution with their active presence. These persisting devotees and lovers of the revolution are the oppressed people of society who have not made the slightest appearance before this, due to the special culture of the area. These heroines, the oppressed daughters of Baluch, thanks to Islam and the Islamic revolution, followed the longest line of unity, sincerity, and struggle this year in the 10 days of Fajr in the districts and villages, manifesting the ideas and thoughts of his holiness the imam.

He then added: In truth and fairness, it must be acknowledged that the dear educators in my electoral district of the Municipality of Khash and the districts of Mirjaveh and Nasratabad played the greatest part in carrying out the propaganda and cultural programs to make the 10 days of Fajr celebration as glorious as possible in the city. It is appropriate that the Ministry of Education and Training should praise and encourage in a good way these dear educators whose names I will announce presently. I offer praise and thanks for the participation of the construction jihad caravans of Torbat-e Jam, Torbat-e Heydariyeh, and Khaf, and for the construction jihad caravans of East Azerbaijan, who have endured the hardships of travel and who have come to the Municipality of Khash at this time of year to work and build as much as possible, and to carry out development work and build schools. I expect the great people of my electoral district to extend full cooperation and hospitality to these dear ones, because one of the main reasons for the oppression and deprivation of our students, especially the Sunni girls, was the unsuitability of the classrooms for education in my electoral district, and now in all the districts, villages, and crowded rural areas we are ready to reopen the schools. However, because of the lack of classrooms and teachers, the oppressed girls are deprived of the blessing of literacy. Their potential talents for reconstruction have not yet been manifested, and they have not yet paid what is due to these God-given talents. I hope that the Ministry of Education and Training will find a basic solution as quickly as possible, and now the province's suffering education and training program is in very difficult circumstances because of the lack of transportation.

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker expressed his condolences to the bereaved flood victim families in the Municipality of Chabahar, and he asked the great leader for help in this matter.

He also asked Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to send a delegation to the flooded areas and he praised and thanked the governor-general of Sistan va Baluchestan and the governor of Chabahar because of their around-the-clock efforts, and then he emphasized: In view of the fact that the rainy season continues in the Chabahar area until the middle of Farvardin [21 March-20 April], and the danger of any kind of flood and severe damage threatens the people of the area, while there is still an opportunity, the utmost efforts must be made in the area towards all solutions by officials of the Flood Control Staff of Chabahar. Otherwise, we will see many casualties and losses. Clearly, rainfall and flooding in nature is no crime, they are oppression due to lack of planning and inattentiveness, and oppression due to weak management, for we have seen floods and flood damage for many years in the area, along with casualties and losses, but we have no systematic plans to control and contain the floods.

Mr. Hashem-Zehi then asked the minister of agriculture to bring feed to the area as quickly as possible to prevent the loss of livestock.

He also discussed the region's agricultural difficulties. He said:

In reality, money or other material aid will not solve some of the problems and difficulties of the region's farmers. The only way to help the people of the area and its devastated farmers is to provide them with implements for working, including bulldozers, gliders, loaders, tractors, agricultural pumps, mechanical shovels and the like, and in whatever way possible arrangements must be made so that with the above resources floodbreakers, dams, diversionary canals, and improvements to agricultural wells can be made. Certainly, they cannot continue their agricultural life with the manpower of the region's farmers, and such resources do not exist in the region. I say to the respected minister of the construction jihad and the minister of roads and transport that for long years the oppressed people were deprived of roads and after the triumph of the splendid Islamic revolution, through the struggle and sacrifice of the sincere crusaders, they have been able to build roads connecting the villages as gifts of the revolution, but these have been destroyed by the floods. The repair and reconstruction of the rural roads and transit routes of the people has special priority.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Khash deputy enumerated the problems in his electoral district and asked the officials to deal with them.

In conclusion, he said to the great leader of the Islamic revolution:

Oh great leader! Oh father, oh companion from the days of the oppressive shah! The deprived and oppressed people of Baluchestan are your children. As long as you have such alert children on the scene of the Islamic revolution, God willing you may be assured that this revolution and Islam will not be damaged.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda for yesterday's public Majles session was continued consideration of the bill for aid to those who made sacrifices in the Islamic revolution and the imposed war, the first article of which had been approved in the previous session.

Article 2: All ministries that issue agreements in principle and business licenses must allocate an annual 40 percent minimum of all the agreements in principle that they issue (the total value of the investments) for which the needed foreign exchange is obtained by the issuing ministry to the sacrificing applicants mentioned in this law (real or lawful persons).

Note 1: The above ministries are required, for those production units that do not need foreign exchange or where the needed foreign exchange is obtained by the applicants themselves, to issue the agreement in principle or the relevant license or authorization at any time of year.

Note 2: The agreements in principle or licenses issued are non-transferable.

Note 3: The procedure for assigning all of the agreements in principle that are voided after the date of this law's enactment will be in accordance with the provisions of this law.

With regard to the above article Mr. Akrami proposed that the word "minimum" be deleted. Mr. Rah-Chamani spoke in opposition and Mr. Mo'azenzadeh spoke in favor of this proposal. After commentary from the government's representative and the commission's expert the above proposition was put to a vote and approved.

Continued consideration of this project was postponed to the next public Majles session.

Letter By More Than 180 Majles Deputies on the Occasion of the 40th Day of the Death of the Martyrs in Soviet Azerbaijan.

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. Majles deputies send their greetings on the occasion of the 40th day of the death of the martyrs of Soviet Azerbaijan. They sympathize with the Muslims of Tajikistan and other regions and send greetings to their pure souls. They sympathize with them at this time when the conflict is still in progress. Considering it their Muslim duty, they remind Mr. Gorbachev that the time to repress the nationalities has expired. Therefore, he should pay profound attention to them and grant the lawful and religious wishes of the Muslims throughout

the Soviet Union so that he does not fall into the lap of world-devouring America unintentionally.

*Report on Proceedings of 4 Mar Majles Session

90OI0214A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 5 Mar 90 p 5

[Text] Legislative and Parliamentary Division: The Majles held a session yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding and continued with Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemyan presiding. In this session, following the recitation of verses from the Koran and the pre-agenda speeches of the representatives and memos to the executive officials, the Majles went into session.

Below, you will read the speeches of the pre-agenda speakers, the representatives' memos to the executive officials, and the items ratified by the Majles.

Arsalan Safa'i, Representative of the People of Bakhtaran

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Mr. Arsalan Safa'i, the representative of the people of Bakhtaran, who said:

The magnificent Islamic revolution, the fruit of millions of valuable human beings and thousands of immortal martyrs, is today in our hands as a ray of hope for humanity. The imam, as the messenger of the Islamic revolution in the present age, considered the preservation of this divine trust, efforts to create the requirements for its survival, and the elimination of the obstacles and problems before it obligatory, especially for the Iranian nation and all Muslims in general. He regarded the secret for the victory to be divine motivation and the lofty goals of the Islamic government and considered the gathering of the whole nation in unity of words to be for the same motivation and towards the same goal and said: "I say as my will and testament to all the present and future generations that if you want Islam and the government of God to be in power and the hands of foreign and domestic colonialists and exploiters to be severed from your country, do not lose this divine motivation recommended by God in the Koran." Opposite this motivation, which is the secret to victory and its survival, is forgetting the goal, disunity, and conflict. Disuniting actions and conflicts go against God's wishes, the interests of the revolution and the interests of the country, which have always caused anxiety for the imam of the nation and the great leader of the revolution. As a result of such disunity and conflict, our miserable enemy, who was a slave in the powerful hands of our faithful combatants, was able to escape safely and today, contrary to Resolution 598, delay the evacuation of the more than 2,400 km of the sacred soil of our nation and contrary to all international laws and global rules and customs, makes improper and ignorant statements in regard to the valid and legal 1975 treaty and the Arvand River, and engages in the criminal slaughter of Kurdish and Arab Muslims. As a result of such disunity and conflicts of opinion, so far, we have been unable to create the requirements to eliminate the obstacles as the imam of the people dictated.

He continued: Let us organize the administrative facilities on the basis of the objectives of the regime and the needs of the country, eliminate the excessive organizations which disrupt executive affairs and generate huge current expenditures, and provide the grounds for the material and spiritual growth of the noble civil servants and provide them with what they require to live. Let us benefit from the natural resources and the God-given existing talents of the country, fully employ the educational, research, and industrial resources of the country and make use of the great, competent manpower. These differences of opinion, this disunity, and these provocative actions weaken the power of the executive officials, making them unable to carry out their legal duties and causing back-breaking harm against the country. Instigating factional conflicts and excitement and creating an environment of threats and pressure are among the methods common in oppressive countries. In an Islamic environment, differences are discussed and examined on the basis of religious laws in the seminaries, universities, and scientific and research communities, and the results are put at the disposal of the people. The official podiums of the country must be places for stating the interests of the regime, the people, and the country within the framework of scientific, constructive discussions. Any sort of issue that is harmful to the higher interests of Islam and the country, the sacred goals of the imam, the rights of the people, and the reputation of individuals must be avoided, and fundamental discussions, constructive criticism, and beneficial viewpoints must be welcomed. This trend in which factions, like intellectual gladiators, attack each other and feel victorious and proud at having harmed the reputation of the rivals must be prevented; otherwise, all will be lost. Today, the thinking clerics, research scholars, and experts in all scientific and academic centers must identify the global problems, crises, and contemporary deadlocks and offer appropriate solutions on the basis of the Koran and tradition.

To carry out this global mission and all the Islamic and humanitarian duties, the nation and the officials must act in accordance with the recommendation of the imam, who said: "I recommend that the noble people of Iran be partners in the problems of the government of the Islamic Republic with heart and soul and strive to eliminate them. Consider the government and the Majles your own, and protect them as you would a dearly beloved. I recommend that the Majles, the government, and the officials appreciate the nation and not hesitate to serve them, especially the oppressed, the disadvantaged, and those who have suffered injustice, because they are the light of the eyes and grand leaders of everyone." We should not be hesitant in solving the problems of this beloved nation, about whom the imam said, "We are all proud to live in this age and in such a nation." In the Islamic regime, there is no gap between the individual

and the collective. The whole regime is for the prosperity of the individual, and the individual's existence is for the preservation of the regime. A human being is the calif of God and by himself is equal to the whole human community. His life and destruction are equated with the life and destruction of humanity. This human being is the epitome of the regime, and his views must be respected in the whole regime. His needs must be provided for, and he must be safe from all fears. In regard to judgment, until the establishment of Islamic justice, the basis must be mercy, especially concerning the victims of ignorance and poverty. It would be proper to establish a court to ensure full adherence to divine and legal laws and the human and Islamic rights of the people under the supervision of a group of religious and legal scholars so that everyone has the right to have the rulings reviewed.

Mr. Safa'i also stated: Today, our duty consists of unity based on the directives of the imam, absolute support for the grand leader, who is a manifestation of the dignity of Muslims, the rule of Islam and the independence of the country, and support of the government, because if weakening the government was an error yesterday, today it is a crime and treason. Actions must be accompanied by love and sincerity. In the same manner that a 13-year-old child burned himself to destroy the enemy, and the imam made of him a model for everyone, our most important duty is to free the executive organization from factional and group conflicts and conduct our affairs on the basis of administrative principles, to create the grounds for everyone to serve and work, to take steps to make use of the faithful scientific and technical forces in the country and abroad, to set aside the culture of slogans, to create the spirit and culture of work and change the consumer culture to a production culture such that both the government and private industrial organizations produce foreign currency and wealth for the country rather than being the users of foreign currency obtained from oil, to change the tradition of dealing to one of manufacturing, to expand the universities and realistically provide the professors and researchers with a living and resolve their housing and other essential needs, to affect a general mobilization to implement the developmental plan, to carry out appropriate projects such as the creation of an east-west and northwest-south railroad network by making use of the resources of the people and investments of the banks, to reconstruct the cities on the basis of principles of urban development, to eliminate dilapidated and unsanitary city districts, to create appropriate residential complexes and parks throughout the country, especially in Tehran in which pollution has reached disastrous proportions, to prevent the export of the food needs of the people, to take rapid and decisive steps to establish Islamic justice throughout the country, to eliminate poverty, to create a balance among the provinces and prevent the spending of the treasury of the country only in a few select provinces which results in the destruction of the remainder of the country, to use all the forces of the country in operating the country, and to eliminate from the sacred face of the Islamic Republic this heinous discrimination against the martyr-nurturing nation in Kermanshah, which has been a host to the pilgrims to the shrine of Hoseyn, a place of martyrdom for the men of God, the domain stained by the blood of the martyrs, the Arab Karbala of Iran and the stronghold of Islam, in which not only did work stop and it suffer much damage as a result of the war, but also because of factional and political discriminatory actions its affairs were suspended and its development delayed. Also, a group which paid no attention at all to our values engaged in adverse propaganda against it and labeled its self-sacrificing and martyr-seeking forces. May God make mute anyone who has spoken or speaks ill of this region! This city is a place of God-seeking, martyrdom-seeking people who have filled the brightest pages of the Islamic revolution with the sacred blood of its dearest youth. It has protected this part of the Islamic nation from all conspiracies and aggression at the price of thousands of martyrs, and has been patient and silent in the face of all calamities in the interest of the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Bakhtaran, emphasizing the developmental tasks of the province and the sweeping and rapid steps that must be taken by the honorable government, said: Fortunately, with the actions that have been taken so far by the government and the efforts of the officials of the province, the door of hope is opening to the people. I thank all of these beloved people. However, to make up for the backwardness of this province, special programs and special attention are needed.

Asadollah Tabe', Representative of the People of Miandoab

Mr. Tabe', the representative of the people of Miandoab, Takab, and Sa'indezh, was the second and final pre-agenda speaker. He sent greetings to the victorious spirit of the imam and his rightful successor, Ayatollah Khamene'i, and said: Praise and thanks to the self-sacrificing, generous, and martyr-nurturing people of Takab, Sa'indezh, and Miandoab for their expansive and united presence on God's day, 22 Bahman [11 February], to perpetuate the goals, objectives, path, thoughts, and ideas of the revered late imam and make a covenant with his angelic spirit, and for their allegiance to the leader, who with the lofty efforts of the whole nation once again disrupted the political, military, and economic balance of the global oppressors. Today, if the Islamic messages occur one after another in the farthest corners of the world in countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Sudan, Palestine, Lebanon, and India and disrupt the political and military balance of the domain of the global oppressors, all this derives from the blessings of the Islamic revolution under the leadership of our imam, who drew the main lines and framework. At the present as well, the same goals, thoughts, and ideas of our late imam are perpetuated by the guardian of Muslims. Based on this principle, all the Muslims in the world are brothers and share in each other's sorrow and happiness.

He then condemned the savage attack of the Indian police on the gathering of 800,000 people of Jammu and Kashmir and said: We declare our support for the holy war of the Muslims in India who have risen up and want to cleanse their country of heathenism and violation of God's laws and will support the rightful uprising of the Muslim people of Jammu and Kashmir with the last drop of their blood.

In another part of his speech, Mr. Tabe' referred to the untiring activities of the people of western Azerbaijan, who from the first days of the victory of the Islamic revolution, due to the special situation of that region, with its self-sacrificers, have fought on both the domestic and the foreign fronts and have been patiently content with their life of poverty during the 11 years since our bloody revolution, particularly during the eight years of the sacred defense, and have bravely, magnificently, and with dignity supported the honor of Islam and Muslims and the sacred foundation of the young Islamic revolution against all the conspiracies of global heathenism. With all the minigroups, including the dissolved Democratic Party, the Kumeleh, the hypocrites, the Ranjbaran, the Rastegari, the communists, the monarchists, and other domestic traitor groups which had joined hands in this oppressed province to destroy the revolution, or so they thought, the brave men of that province united in the crowded lines of the mobilization, took the whole province like angels under their wings, and cleansed it from the filth of the infidels and punished the heathens for their actions. They brought one of God's greatest gifts, security, to the people of this suffering domain. On the fronts beyond the borders, they offered to the revolution such grand commanders as Bakeri. They fought cultural and material poverty to bring independence and freedom to the Islamic Republic. All the officials of the regime know that in the course of the past years, in addition to the atmosphere governing the region due to the counterrevolutionaries, from the first day of the savage bombing of the cities by the 'Aflaqi regime, most cities of that province were the target of air attacks by the enemy. On the whole, in 8,345 units, we had 17 percent destruction; in 5,877 units, 50 percent destruction; and in 1,176 units, over 50 percent destruction throughout the province. This destruction has been repaired with the participation of the bright people of the province.

The speaker then added: Besides the cities, most of the villages of this province, with public places such as schools, baths, clinics, guard stations, rural services equipment, and domestic water outreach facilities, which contain the supporters of the regime of the Islamic Republic, were destroyed by the minigroups and their livestock were set on fire. A large number of cases of damages in the villages have not yet been fully examined, and the damages have not been compensated for. Of the 3,261 villages in that province, nearly 500 were destroyed or evacuated and are badly in need of reconstruction so that, hopefully, the free-spirited people of that province can return to their homes and engage in production. By way of contrast, those areas that were out of the range of enemy fire and enjoyed better potential have been able during the eight years of the sacred defense to attract a great deal of funds and resources.

The representative of the people of Miandoab also criticized the cultural and developmental situation of Miandoab and emphasized: Now that the period of reconstruction and new construction have come, in observance of social justice and for the sake of repairing the destruction due to the war and compensating for the backwardness, necessary and urgent decisions must be made to pay for the damages in villages and reconstruct them, and a special account must be established for this province. The people of western Azerbaijan or Urmumieh also have numerous problems, and the honorable officials of the country also through a brief examination will be able to see that a number of the cities and districts of this province, such as Takab, have been deprived of even the most primitive living resources.

Brother and sister representatives, honorable president, hard-working officials, was it not to save the oppressed people of this blood-stained region that from the farthest areas of the country brave commanders such as Naser Torkan, Mehdi Amini, Hasan Bumi, Mohammad Borujerdi, Naser Kazemi, Jalal Kavandeh, Mahmud Kazemi, martyr Abshenasan and martyr Sirudi went to that region, fought for years and finally gave their lives for Islam, making that province a sacred land? The speaker added: The notable people of our country believe that it is sinful to walk on any inch of this province without performing ablutions. Is it not true that this province is the bloodstained chest of Iran, all of its vast plains are Karbala, and the epic-creators of the Koran and the mobilization forces have left mementos on it? Considering that this province has an 860-km border with three foreign countries and its existing natural resources include nearly a million hectares of high-quality, arable land; more than 6,000 cubic meters of water, if controlled; 228 megawatts of electricity; the third largest producer of fodder throughout the country; 11.8 percent of the first-rate land in the country; 1 million head of livestock; 80,000 hectares of forest; 1,856 hectares of pasture; agricultural products that include 400,000 tons of grapes and apples yearly, the value of which for the province is similar to the value of rice for the northern states, we expect the president to issue emphatic instructions to make better use of these resources in the Five-Year Plan.

Details of the Discussions

The first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Majles was the request by a number of the representatives to the joint plan and budget and economic affairs and finance committee in regard to the return of the bill on collecting some of the revenues of the government and their use in certain cases in accordance with Article 85 of the Constitution, which was ratified by the representatives.

The Second Item on the Agenda

The second item on the agenda was the report of the committee on administrative and employment affairs in regard to the bill on amending the retirement regulations and the national employment law (returned from the Council of Guardians). After examining and discussing Articles 7 and 11, Note 2, and Article 12, it was ratified as follows.

The Committee's Amendment in Regard To Adhering to the Opinion of the Council of Guardians

Amendment to Article 7: "Ministries and government establishments subject to the law of national employment, city halls, government establishments, and companies not included in the above-mentioned law whose employees are shareholders in the national retirement fund as well as establishments stated in the Note to Article 71 and Note 2 to Article 73 shall be responsible, in addition to the retirement deductions in Article 71 of the above-mentioned law, for depositing into the national retirement fund from their own budgets every month 1.5 times the amount of the employer's share."

Amendment to Article 11: "All retirement funds and other similar titles shall be combined, with the exception of the retirement funds of those eligible for the employment law of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the social security agency (the division of skilled workers), and a fund called the government employees retirement and retirees welfare fund shall be established. All the duties, existing properties, documents, papers, commitments, and employees operating them will be transferred to the government employees retirement and retirees welfare fund."

Amendment to Note 2: "From the date of the ratification of this law, within a maximum period of six months, the charter of the above-mentioned fund and regulations related to conforming the employment situation of the employees of the above-mentioned funds with the national employment law shall be prepared by the national administrative and employment affairs organization with the cooperation of the above-mentioned funds, and it can be implemented after the approval of the Cabinet and ratification by the administrative and employment committee of the Majles. The coordinated system for the retirement salary and the duty of the shareholders of the combined funds shall be based on a law to be proposed by the Cabinet and ratified by the Majles."

Amendment to Article 12: "The government shall be responsible for depositing funds for the payment of all debts suspended due to the failure to carry out the contents of Notes 1 and 2 of Articles 70 and 73 of the national employment law in the government employees retirement and retirees welfare fund and project the amount of funds to be paid in the budget of every year."

The Third Item on the Agenda

The next item on the agenda was the report of the administrative and employment committee regarding the legislative proposal to create offices of relations between the people and the representatives of the Majles (returned from the Council of Guardians) and the request to refer it to the honorable assembly to determine the interests of the Islamic regime, which was referred to that assembly upon the instructions of the speaker of the Majles.

The Fourth Item on the Agenda

The fourth item on the agenda was the report of the commerce and distribution committee in regard to the proposal to create the necessary facilities to issue business permits to the self-sacrificers, freed prisoners of war, and the honorable families of the martyrs and missing in action, and the amendment of the articles of the guild system law (returned from the Council of Guardians). The amendment of the committee was ratified as follows.

Paragraph 1 was amended as follows:

1: Production guilds. That group of guilds whose activities and creativity result in the physical or chemical changes of materials and who place their products directly or indirectly at the disposal of consumers exclusively shall be called production guilds.

Paragraph 3 was amended as follows:

3: Distribution guilds. That group of guilds that engages in supplying goods from imports or domestic production without playing a role in the production of the goods or changing their quality shall be called distribution guilds.

Article 9 was amended as follows:

The amount of and procedures for collecting the revenues of the guild unions, which are obtained through membership fees, guild services, and training fees, and aid by societies to guild affairs appropriate to the situation of the union, the kind of profession and city, and also the amounts that guild unions deposit in the account of the guild affairs assembly shall be determined in accordance with the bylaws to be prepared by the Ministry of Commerce and by inquiring the opinions of the guild affairs assemblies and approved by the supreme supervisory committee.

Note 1 was amended as follows: In all cases wherein in this law the guild affairs assembly is mentioned, the duties and authority shall be determined in accordance with the production guilds and technical services or distribution and service guilds, and the existing properties shall be divided between the two above-mentioned assemblies in proportion to the cash and non-cash amounts brought in. The supervisory committees shall be the authority for resolving differences in this matter.

Also, in yesterday's open session of the Majles, Messrs. Shahrokhi, from the Kuhdasht electoral district, and Jamali, from the Kashan electoral district, in separate letters to the speaker of the Majles asked of the investigation committee the reasons for their credentials not having been examined.

The Majles voted on whether to extend the time for the committee. Then the chairman of the investigation committee explained the reason for not having provided the report and asked for an extension, which was rejected by the Majles.

Hence, the credentials of Messrs. Shahrokhi and Jamali will be discussed in the next open session of the Majles.

The Majles will have an open session tomorrow.

The Representatives' Memos to the Country's Executive Officials

- Mr. Qasemi, the representative of Zarqan: To the minister of education in regard to investigating the situation of the administration of education in the district.
- Mr. Movahhedi-Saveji, the representative of Saveh: To the minister of energy in regard to the need to create the Saveh dam power plant and the irrigation network along with the progress made in the implemental operations of the dam.
- Mr. 'Azimi, the representative of Torqabeh and Chenaran: To the minister of roads and transport in regard to expediting the completion of the loop road for the city of Torqabeh.
- Mr. Ha'eri, the representative of Mehran, Dehloran, and Darrehshahr: To the minister of interior in regard to investigating and taking steps concerning changing the district of Abadanan to a city.
- Dr. Sheybani, the representative of Tehran: To the minister of heavy industries and the minister of petroleum in regard to raising the quality of the domestic industries products and controlling the quality of gasoline.
- Mr. Qomi, the representative of Varamin: To the minister of education in regard to preventing the operation of non-licensed training schools, investigating the administration of the Martyr Modarres and Martyr Mohsen Chitchian schools, attention to the Islamic and specialized standards in dismissals and appointments, investigating the moral issues of students, and serious investigation of veiling in girls' schools.
- Mr. Ha'erizadeh, the representative of Birjand: To the minister of health, treatment, and medical education in regard to the reason for the delay and suspension of the construction of the Birjand hospital, and to the minister of energy in regard to eliminating the problems of drinking water in Birjand.
- Mr. Partow, the representative of Qeydad and Khamseh: To the minister of commerce in regard to providing the ration coupon allotments.
- Mr. Kavusi, the representative of Tuysirkan: To the minister of petroleum in regard to providing fuel needed for the vehicles of the citizens and farmers of Tuysirkan and expediting the operation of the Tuysirkan oil reservoir.
- Mr. Salehabadi, the representative of Mashhad: To the minister of education and the Plan and Budget Organization in regard to the payment of the promotion salaries, promotion of groups, and the salaries of the hourly teachers of Mashhad.

Pakistan

Iranian Armed Forces Chief Meets Bhutto 23 Mar

BK2403035690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Mar 90

[Text] The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, called on the prime minister in Islamabad yesterday. He delivered a message of congratulations from the Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Ms. Benazir Bhutto on the occasion of Pakistan Day.

The prime minister said excellent relations exist between Pakistan and Iran and expressed the hope that these friendly relations will be further strengthened in future.

Comments on Kashmir, Departs

BK2503062490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] The chairman of the joint chiefs of staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Brigadier General 'Ali Shahbazi, has said that his visit to Pakistan will further increase cooperation between the two countries, especially between their armed forces. Talking to newsmen in Karachi yesterday before leaving for home, he said that his talks with the Pakistani leaders were useful. He added more delegations will be exchanged to promote cooperation between the two countries in the economic, political, and military fields.

Answering a question in the current crises in the occupied Kashmir, he said both Iran and Pakistan are Muslim states and we condemn measures aimed at killing of Muslims in all parts of the world.

Ishaq Khan, Bhutto Attend Security Briefing

BK2803111390 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto attended a briefing in Rawalpindi today on the security situation in the region. Before this briefing, the president and the prime minister had a meeting with the chief of the army staff, General Mirza Aslam Beg.

2 Killed, 7 Hurt in Hyderabad Shooting 26 Mar

BK2603153490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] There were shooting incidents in various parts of Hyderabad today. According to hospital sources, two persons were shot dead and seven injured. Law enforcement agencies have undertaken massive patrolling in the area.

Press Note Issued

BK2703023890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad last night said that three people were killed and five injured as a result of shooting by miscreants at different areas of the city and in Latifabad subdivision. The district magistrate has told owners of all vehicles to remove immediately the illegal sirens and flash lights from their vehicles which can be used only on police cars. The magistrate also ordered them to remove the tinted glass from their cars as the use of such glass is illegal. The press note said that massive patrolling by law enforcement agencies is on in affected areas.

Indefinite Curfew Imposed

BK2703153590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Mar 90

[Text] Reports of some shooting incidents have been received from Hyderabad City and Latifabad subdivision. According to hospital sources, one person was killed and five others injured. The situation is tense in most areas of Hyderabad and Latifabad and the army has cordoned off some areas in order to search for criminals.

The district magistrate has announced that an indefinite curfew with immediate effect has been clamped on Market and Phuleli police stations, except (Saeedabad) area, and on the City subdivision and units seven and eight of Latifabad subdivision.

Troops To 'Shoot on Sight'

BK2803125290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Hyderabad, Pakistan, March 28 (AFP)—Authorities in this southern Pakistani city have ordered law enforcement troops to shoot on sight and imposed a round-the-clock curfew after snipers killed three people and injured 20 here Tuesday [27 March], officials said Wednesday.

Communal violence between local Sindhis and Urdu-speaking Muhajirs—settlers from India—has left 19 people dead and 70 injured since last Wednesday.

Hyderabad's district magistrate said in a statement that four alleged terrorists were arrested and their automatic weapons seized in a police raid Tuesday.

Meanwhile rioters fought street battles with police and paramilitary troops late Tuesday, hurling a homemade bomb at a local police station. No casualties were reported in the incident.

Police also launched a massive door-to-door search for illicit arms and terrorists late Tuesday in Hyderabad's disturbed district of Latifabad, 180 kilometers (110 miles) north of Karachi.

Azim Ahmad Tariq, leader of the ethnic Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), said he spoke by telephone Tuesday with Sind Chief Minister Aftab Mirani in an effort to defuse conflict between MQM and the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP). MQM broke from the PPP and joined the ranks of the opposition after a bitter rivalry between the two parties in Sind's major urban centres, Karachi and Hyderabad, last year. Mr. Tariq said MQM wanted to develop a working relationship with the government but added that the PPP's "undemocratic attitude" was a "stumbling block" to reconciliation. The PPP, he said, "preached democracy, but did not practice it".

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto earlier this month persuaded Syed Qaim Ali Shah, then chief minister of Sind, to resign and replaced him with Mr. Mirani in a bid to reduce tension and restore order in the region.

Bhutto Speaks on Foreign Policy, Investments

BK2603050090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Text] The prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has emphasized that Pakistan's diplomacy must have a sharp economic edge and meet the new political as well as economic challenges. She was inaugurating a nine-day Pakistani envoys' conference on foreign investment and foreign policy in Islamabad this afternoon. The prime minister urged the envoys to draw up an action plan to attract substantial foreign investment, besides addressing to general problems and specific issues relevant to major countries and regional groups. She said the momentous changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have added a new dimension to the international situation. Pakistan needs to move fast to respond to new challenges and grab the new opportunities.

The prime minister said the installation of a representative and democratic government in 1988 has significantly eased the task of Pakistani diplomacy abroad. They no longer need to be apologetic of the government they represent because today they are ambassadors of the democratic Pakistan. She referred to the positive image she found during her visits abroad due to restoration of democracy and said we must not allow the substantial reservoir of international goodwill to remain untapped.

Emphasizing the physical importance of economic factors in the conduct of international relations, Ms. Benazir Bhutto spoke of the steps taken by her government for restoring the confidence of entrepreneurs at

home and abroad by streamlining facilities and providing incentives for investment.

The prime minister suggested paying special attention to relations with Muslim countries, particularly Arab states, and called for intensifying steps to accord Muslim states priority in our policies.

Referring to Pakistan's support for African people's struggle for independence, including Namibia, she said we must now try to build upon this goodwill and step up establishing mutually beneficial ties with African countries. The Soviet Union, particularly the Muslim belt, as well as Eastern Europe, also offer potential for imaginative trade policies. The easing of tension between the superpowers could have serious implications for our security and we must remain vigilant lest some other countries may try to impose its hegemony.

About South Asia, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said our region is yet to share the global trend of relaxation of tension and our eastern neighbor is continuing to increase its military strength. New missile systems and nuclear submarines have been acquired by it and there has been increase in its defense outlay. This imposes a great burden on Pakistan.

About the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, she said the indigenous movement there has acquired the shape of a popular movement. India has leveled baseless charges of Pakistan's involvement in the Kashmir struggle and held out specific threats. Pakistan's response, she said, has to be courageous and realistic.

Turning to the Afghanistan problem, the prime minister regretted that it remained unresolved and the stalemate continues. It is imperative that we find an early solution acceptable to Afghan people in order to encourage the return of refugees and safeguard our own security.

Prime Minister's Adviser Assumes Duties 26 Mar

BK2603163090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 26 Mar 90

[Text] Chowdhury Anwarul Haq, MNA [Member of National Assembly], has been appointed adviser to the prime minister with the status of a federal minister. Talking to APP [ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN], Chowdhury Anwarul Haq, who assumed his duties today, said he has accepted the responsibility to strengthen the present democratic setup and promote healthy politics in the country. He said it is the dire need of the time to strengthen the hands of the prime minister to check internal and external threats to the country.

Further on President's Pakistan Day Remarks

BK2403094590 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 24 Mar 90 pp 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad—President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said Friday [23 March] the greatest challenge to the democratic order in Pakistan was to fight out the forces of divisiveness, quagmire of prejudices, short-sightedness, selfishness and intolerance.

Addressing the spectacular Pakistan Day Joint Services parade at the changed venue of Sharah-e-Quaid-i-Azam here, overlooking the Parliament House, Aiwan-i-Sadr and the spring green Margallas, he said the challenge facing the democratic system was enormous but the same could be properly attended to "by practising the glorious Islamic teachings and the rich ideals of the Quaid-i-Azam [Mohammad Ali Jinnah]—faith, unity and discipline."

He said: "The greatest challenge to our democratic system today is to sail the nation out of the present quagmire of prejudices, intolerance and selfishness and to channelise positively towards an atmosphere of mutual understanding, respect, peace, harmony, tolerance and integrity. It is imperative so as to give a shape of reality to the dream of our founding fathers seen 50 years ago, and which has hitherto remained unaccomplished."

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan said the task of national reconstruction and consolidation could only be promoted and undertaken in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

He said Pakistan firmly believed in mutual respect for territorial sovereignty and was determined to live with dignity and peace, with secure borders.

He said Pakistan was averse to imperialistic designs, exploitation and hegemony of every sort as well as interference into the internal affairs of any country.

The President said imperialistic forces around the world were falling apart and giving way to the popular upsurge. "Be it small or large, no region or country is today prepared to accept hegemony or repression perpetrated by any force. The repressed people around the globe are bent on unshackling the chains of domination and are determined to decide their own fate," he stated.

He said in such state of affairs, unfortunately, some powers or countries were trying to suppress demands for acquisition of the right to self-determination which was a universally-accepted mode of conduct. Such countries were also resorting to maintain their domination by installing their henchmen, or use of military force to quell popular demand for right to self-determination.

"Unfortunately, such attempts are being made on the eastern and western borders of Pakistan," he said, adding that on our east, a neighbouring country was indulging in huge spendings on compounding its military

might and creating an atmosphere of dissatisfaction in the region. It was besides continuing denial of the birth right to self-determination to the people of Kashmir. He said the repressive acts on its part in a bid to suppress the Kashmiri uprising, and consequent atmosphere of tension and violence was affecting us.

He asked India to learn a lesson from human history "and keep in mind that, whenever movements for freedom rise, they can never be silenced by resort to brute force."

"The only possible solution to the Kashmir issue is to hold free and fair plebiscite, as committed through the specific UN resolutions, which were on record", he said.

He said Pakistan would continue to voice its support for their right to self-determination of the Kashmiri people, with whom Pakistan had numerous links. "They are part of one millat [community] which had declared Pakistan as its destiny, 50 years ago", he said.

Our hearts beat with them, and we deeply feel their sorrows and sufferings. Our reaction to the atrocities being perpetrated against the Kashmiri people, is but natural. Hence, there should be no surprise or objection to it, he added.

The President said on Pakistan's western borders, the valiant Afghans continued to fight against "a puppet and illegally installed regime through alien indulgence."

He said the Afghans had offered numerous sacrifices, and were still prepared to offer much more for ensuring success of their mission, which was to live with honour. He said, Pakistan would continue to extend its support to the just cause of the Afghan people. He said Pakistan did not intend to induct a government of its own liking in Afghanistan. "This is the right of the Afghan people alone", he said.

The President said Pakistan was acquired in the wake of manifold sacrifices and its unity, prosperity and integrity was dear to the hearts of all Pakistanis. Hence, he said, Pakistan could not remain oblivious of its defence requirements.

"Though we have to fulfil our foremost responsibilities of socioeconomic uplift, as we have to continue our struggle against the problems of poverty, ignorance and disease—but at the same time, we will continue our efforts to strengthen our defence, so as to nullify all evil designs of any inimical forces against the integrity of our motherland", he asserted.

"Weakness invites aggression", he said and added in the fact, a befitting reply to an aggression could not be given merely by forwarding a mere logician's argument.

"Therefore, we will never accept weakness in our defence capability. As always, the nation will continue to provide necessary resources for turning the defence capability mightier and stand by their valiant mujahids. [no closing quotation marks as published]

He also paid tributes to the high standard, sense of commitment, undaunted spirit and devotion to duty of our Armed Forces.

"Our Armed Forces today are at their high levels of professionalism and military preparedness, demonstration of which was recently witnessed during the biggest-ever military exercise Zarb-i-Momin. My belief has now been reaffirmed that the officers and jawans [soldiers] of the Armed Forces are blessed with high professionalism, invincible sense of commitment and devotion to duty", he added.

He said he had been impressed by the superb Joint Services parade presented today and had happily witnessed bold, confident and proud faces of the smartly turned out jawans and officers.

He said the added feature to the Joint Services parade this year was its venue in the Federal Capital. He congratulated the organisers for making efficient arrangements despite shortage of time. He also congratulated the parade commander for arranging a nice performance.

He paid tributes to the stalwart leaders who led the nation to the goal of independence, after a selfless struggle culminating in 1947. "This is because of you that we have received the singular honour of becoming honourable citizens of Pakistan", he added.

Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Resigns; Cabinet Dissolved 28 Mar

BK2803081290 Hong Kong AFP in English 0729 GMT 28 Mar 90

[Text] Colombo, March 28 (AFP)—Sri Lankan Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge resigned Wednesday [28 March], sparking off the Cabinet's dissolution and paving the way for its reshuffle by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Cabinet spokesman Ranjan Wijeratne told reporters here that a new Council of Ministers would be announced Thursday by the president. Mr. Wijeratne quoted Mr. Premadasa as telling a Cabinet meeting earlier Wednesday that Mr. Wijetunge quit the office of prime minister with effect from 1200 hrs (0630 GMT).

"The prime minister having ceased to hold office by resignation, the Cabinet of Ministers stands dissolved by operation of law," the president told his outgoing ministers. I intend reconstituting the Cabinet of Ministers and appointing other ministers as deemend necessary shortly," Mr. Premadasa said, without specifying when.

But Mr. Wijeratne, the outgoing foreign minister, said: "Tomorrow there will be a new Cabinet."

Mr. Premadasa assumed office in January 1989, a month after winning the presidential polls. He named his Cabinet on February 18 after his ruling United National

Party (UNP) won the parliamentary elections. The president had stated in February last year that he planned to have a new prime minister every year.

Mr. Wijetunge, who also held the portfolio of finance, could not be reached for comments.

Local press reports have been speculating for the last two months about a Cabinet shake-up by the president, who had said on January 10 that he planned a reshuffle "in keeping with the needs of our times."

On Wednesday, Mr. Premadasa also said that he would rationalise "the allocation of subjects and functions with due emphasis on critical areas of the governmental machinery that calls for priority attention."

New Chief Secretary for Northeastern Province

BK2503144190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 25 Mar 90

[Excerpt] Colombo, March 25 (AFP)—President Ranasinghe Premadasa on Sunday [25 March] appointed a new chief secretary for Sri Lanka's Northeastern Province, from where India pulled out its troops Saturday after nearly three years.

A presidential communique said Sornalingam Ganeshanathan, currently secretary to Northeastern Governor Nalin Seneviratne, would take over as the region's top civil servant from Velupillai Natarajah Sivarajah, who was sacked.

The communique said the appointment was necessary as the functioning of the Northeastern Provincial Council government had been "adversely affected" by the absence of the region's chief minister and his board of ministers.

Mr. Sivarajah, now reportedly in Colombo, could not be reached for comment.

Northeastern Chief Minister Varadaraja Perumal and most of his ministers fled Sri Lanka ahead of India's pullout to escape revenge attacks by guerrillas of the dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam group. [passage omitted]

Minister Praises Soviet Development Aid

BK2203120990 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1055 GMT 22 Mar 90

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, March 22 (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of State for Information A.J. Ranasinghe, addressing a press conference in Colombo today, said that a Soviet cultural and economic delegation had arrived at a very crucial history making period in Sri Lanka. He said that the two historic events in Sri Lanka this week was that the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] was leaving the shores of our country and that yesterday President Ranasinghe Premadasa had terminated diplomatic ties with Israel.

The press conference was arranged by the Ministry of Information for the media to meet the two-member Soviet cultural and economic delegation.

The delegation comprised Yuriy Smirnov, vice chairman of the Union of the Soviet Friendship Leagues and Cultural Relations of the USSR With Foreign Countries, and Viktor Voronov, executive director of the Yaraslav tyre factory.

Speaking further, Minister Ranasinghe said that Sri Lanka treated the Soviet Union like a mother. Since establishing diplomatic ties with the USSR 30 years ago, our relationship has become closer and closer and is now on firm ground. The Soviet Union did not give us guns and ammunition, but gave us factories like the tyre factory at Kelaniya, the steel factory and the flour factory, the minister said. The Soviet Union has given us other development aid, but its greatest gift to Sri Lanka was the opening of Russian universities to Sri Lankan students, the minister said.

State Minister for Information A.J. Ranasinghe further said that earlier, the rich students only were able to go to foreign universities, but this gesture of the Soviet Union enabled the poor students to study in Russian universities.

Yuriy Smirnov, speaking on behalf of the Soviet cultural and economic delegation, said that the cultural and economic ties between the two countries had lasted for the last 30 years. He said the delegation, which arrived in Sri Lanka on the 14th of March, had met Sri Lankan President Premadasa and government ministers and officials, and also visited the presidential mobile service at Puttalam and was greatly impressed by its performance and the great achievement in peoples diplomacy advocated by President Premadasa.

He said the delegation had arrived in Sri Lanka to further strengthen cultural and economic ties between the two countries, and also to sign a new two-year agreement to exchange cultural and economic activities between the two countries.